Valentine's gifts... don't be stupid, be a cupid page 20



A real Basil **Fawlty** hits out page 3



The best of the Americas





Mike O'Neill: history of

£7 million pay deal for new Barclays boss

By CAROLINE MERRELL

BARCLAYS BANK is to splash out more than £7 million on its new group chief executive, a former US Marine who was partly responsible

for creating America's biggest bank. Mike O'Neill comes to Britain to a pay package that far outstrips anything offered by the rival high street banks - and it is worth almost ten times as much as Barclays paid his

Mr O'Neill, 52, will receive a basic salary of £850,000, a guaranteed 100 about future strategy, by contrast

per cent bonus in the first year, and E5 million of shares. He will also receive an annual expatriate allowance of £175,000, as well as share options worth four times his basic salary.

The shares will be held in trust for three years and he will lose them if he leaves before then. But Mr O'Neill will himself buy another £5 million of Bardays shares after the bank's results are unveiled next week.

His predecessor Martin Taylor, who left the bank abruptly at the end of last year after a disagreement earned £738,000 in 1997. Derek Wanless, head of Natwest, earned a total of £450,000 last year, while Peter Ellwood, chief executive of Lloyds TSB earned a £700,000, including profitrelated pay and profit sharing.

Mr O'Neill arrives from the Bank of America, where he was partly responsible for the £80 billion merger with Nationsbank, which created the country's largest bank. Before embarking on his banking career, he served with the US Marines between 1969 and 1971, did not see active service in Vietnam. Instead, as a volunteer he chose to work in intelligence. His appointment, and the end to the uncertainty at Barclays, was welcomed by the City yesterday, but the banking union Bifu was worried about the size of his pay package. Jim Lowe, Bifu assistant secretary, said: "Some of my members will express

Mr O'Neill is expected to preside over a complete overhaul of the bank. which has shed about 20,000 staff and closed hundreds of branches over the past decade. He has a history of overseeing huge mergers, and

Barclays has been at the centre of merger speculation for more than two years - its name being linked with Prudential, NatWest and Abbey National. But one of his first tasks will be to sort out Barclays Capital, the investment bank, which lost £250

million in Russia last year.

Mr O'Neill will be using his £175,000 expatriate allowance to move his wife, two children and two

> Shares lifted, page 27 Commentary, page 29



Betting link with soccer blackouts

By Claudia Joseph and Stewart Tendler

SCOTLAND Yard and the Football Association yesterday launched an investigation into the sabotage of floodlights at football grounds by a betting ring with links to the Far East. A nationwide search has

been launched at football grounds for a device which disables floodlights. The police are already in place around the country, threatening matches this season.

Sabotaging a game would be hugely lucrative for gamblers. Syndicates in the Far East often bet millions of pounds on a single result. Bookmakers' rules in countries like Malaysia allow a pay-out on the score at the point a game stops, if it passes half-time.

Suspicions that football was again becoming the focus of a betting scandal were aroused last season when three Premiership matches at West Ham, Derby and Wimbledon were abandoned because of floodlight failures in the second half.

Last night detectives were questioning three men and a security guard arrested at the Charlton Athletic ground, the Valley, in south London on Wednesday night. The men were allegedly found tamper-ing with electrical equipment linked to the floodlight sup-

The guard works for a security company employed to watch the ground and the other three are from the Far East. The four were held by police af-

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LAW REPORT

LETTERS OBITUARIES.

ter an undercover operation and are being questioned on

suspicion of burglary.
Yesterday police said offic-ers from the Yard's organised crime squad were studying matches where floodlighting had failed and matches halted. The Yard said senior officers were also talking to the Pre-League as part of the investigations.

At a press conference at the FA's headquarters at Lancaster Gate last night, David Davies, the acting chief executive, said that it was too early to link events at Charlton with other floodlight failures.

Over the next 24 hours the Premier League and the Football League are contacting all 96 professional clubs in England and Wales for details of any floodlight failures which could be suspicious.

Peter Varney, managing di-rector of Charlton, said lighting equipment and power supplies in the ground were being checked and a statement would be issued today about the match with Liverpool.

A single Premiership match can be worth millions of pounds to a betting syndicate in the Far East, where a halftime result stands even if a game then ends prematurely. Graham

Sharpe, of bookmaker William Hill, said the same rules did not apply in Britain. "Do-mestically, all bets are void if a match is abandoned. You keep your stake money but it's impossible to make any money."

He said the rules were designed to guard against any

skulduggery to prevent a match being completed.

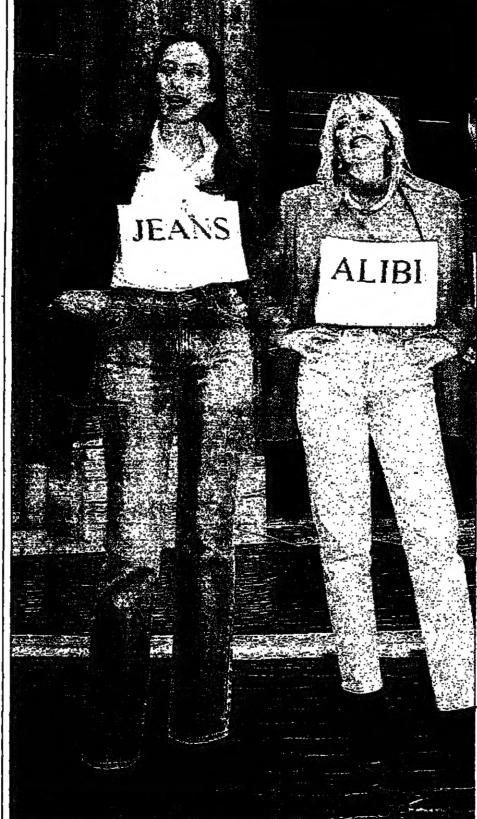
The possibility of a link between floodlight failures and sabotage was first raised two years ago after a succession of mes were halted.

In August 1997 the match beat Derby's first match at the new Pride Park stadium was abandoned after 56 minutes when when Derby were leading 2-1. Peter Gadsby, the Dervice-chairman, said a "bang" caused both generators to fuse and resulted in a loss of power.

In November 1997 the lights failed at Upton Park in a match between West Ham and Crystal Palace. Frank Lampard had just levelled the scores at 2-2 when the lights went out. The game was abandoned after 65 minutes.

The club said the floodlights at the south end of the ground developed a fault which could not be traced during the

A month later the match between Wimbledon and Arsenal at Selhurst Park was abandoned a minute into the second half with the scores at 0-0 after the lights went out. At the time it was described as a technical fault and Vic Worrall, the Wimbledon manager, blamed the problem on faulty switchgear. But in February last year there were reports that a Malaysian betting syndicate had placed large amounts



MPs Simona Prestigiacomo and Alessandra Mussolini protesting outside Parliament

Woman's tight jeans an official alibi for rape

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

A STORM of protest broke yesterday after Italy's highest court ruled that a woman cannot be raped if she is wearing tight denim jeans, since she would have to co-operate in removing them.

Women MPs wore jeans to Parliament and waved banners in protest at the ruling. and a female judge denounced the appeal court as being in the hands of eldery men with old-fashioned ideas.

The Court of Cassation had overruled a lower court which had jailed a 45-year-old driving instructor for for raping an 18-year-old woman on a country road during a driving lesson. The all-male appeal court panel said that "on the basis of common experience, a factor of collaboration is necessary on the part of a woman wearing jeans if they are to be

They said the girl - named only as Rosa - had clearly ailowed herself to be undressed. and the act of sexual intercourse therefore must have been "consensual". They added that they had

considered the possibility that she had co-operated out of fear of a worse fate, but rejected the idea because "it was difficult to imagine" anything worse than

Donato Pace, for the defendant, said the case was a fuss about nothing. "My client has sustained since the beginning that he had a fully consensual sexual relationship with the girl. She was simply trying to justify herself to her parents. She did not want to appear a loose woman, so she made up the rape story." Maretta Scoca, the prosecut-

ing lawyer, said the Court of Cassation ruling was very odd. "No matter how tight jeans are, they are designed to be taken off as well as put on. I think the judges have forgotten the importance of the zip fastener.

Newspapers and television stations were later inundated with calls from women who said that they had suffered rape or attempted rape while wearing jeans, having taken them off - or allowed their attacker to take them off - because they were "paralysed

in Parliament, Alessandra Mussolini led women MPs in a denim-clad protest and urged all Italian women to wear jeans to work until the ruling was reversed. Signora Mussolini, who two years ago framed a new law defining rape as a criminal rather than "moral" offence, said that the decision wound the clock back 20 years. "From now on, the fact that a woman is wearing jeans means that any man who assaults her will go unpunished."

The newspaper Il Messagge ro said the ruling amounted to "a manual for aspiring

Talk-show staff suspended over 'fake guests'

By Susie Steiner

The BBC suspended three programme makers and announced a sweeping review of all broadcasts involving members of the public last night after it emerged that four guests on Vanessa Feltz's daytime chat show were fakes.

Two producers and a researcher from The Vanessa Show were "sent home" after an investigation disclosed that entertainment agencies had supplied "made to measure" guests for the confessional live

The investigation followed claims by a London businessman, Tony Papotto, that he each guest he supplied to the show, which specialises in emotional out-pourings from traumatised interviewees. Miss Feltz, who was hired on a Elmillion contract after walking out on ITV in a salary dispute, yesterday described the

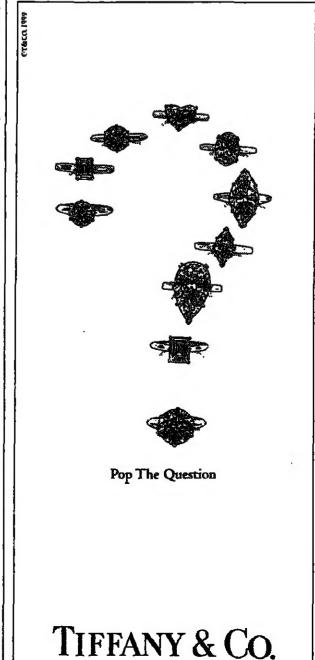
incident as "horrifying". Speaking on her daytime show, she said: "It's embarrassing. It's bloody awful. All I can say is that it looks like there's a fashion for hoaxing."

The BBC said that Ms Feltz knew nothing of the faking and that there were no plans to axe the series, which began on January 4.

In one month of broadcasting, in which The Vanessa Show has pulled disappoint-ing ratings, the series is now believed to have featured four items using guests with fabri-cated identities.

Last Wednesday, two feuding "sisters" who joined a discussion with Ms Feltz on sibling rivalry were in fact strippers who had never met before. On Friday, Ms Feltz hosted a show on domestic viowife who in reality was an un-married actress. Details have yet to emerge of the other two

In a statement last night, the BBC said: "We can confirm that two agencies have been used to book guests for four items on The Vanessa Show. Two producers and a researcher have been sent home pending further inquiries. We are still interviewing members of Continued on page 2, coi 7



LONDON 25 OLD BOND STREET 0171-489 2740

British tanks are sent to Kosovo

BY MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE EDITOR

BRITISH tanks and armoured vehicles are to be loaded on to ferries next, week for possible peacekeeping action in Kosovo, George Robertson, the Defence Secretary, announced in the Commons last

night. Challenger tanks, AS90 artillery and Warrior armoured fighting vehicles will be placed on two Royal Fleet Auxiliary vessels, Sea Centurion and Sea Crusader, at the German port of Emden on Monday. Mr Robertson said that al-

though there was no peace deal yet and no decision on deploying Nato troops to Kosovo, it was important to have a force ready in the region to act at short notice.

The equipment will take ten days to reach the Greek port of Salonika, where it will await a decision to move into Kosovo. Mr Robertson also an-

were being placed on notice to

leave at any time. A week ago.

nounced that lead elements of an armoured battle group

8,000 troops were put on 72 hours' notice. The first troops to fly out will also go to Salonika and then to the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonial where they will boost the 2,400-man Nato "extraction force" which is already there.

Mr Robertson's announcement carne as peace negotiations between the Serbs and Kosovo Albanians at a chateau in Rambouillet, outside Paris, approached the first deadline set by the six-nation Contact Group.

The parties were given a week to make sufficient progress on reaching a deal. They will then have less than seven days to complete negotiations for a three-year interim arrangement. If a peace settlement is

reached, part of the deal will be that Belgrade agrees to the deployment of a 30,000-man Nato force in Kosovo to implement the accord.

Kosovo głogm, page 18

Tory naval barrage sends Quin limping back into port

ust when you thought the Opposition hopelessly split, an issue breaks the horizon to unite them. Though the Tories have fewer MPs than Gibraltar's Rock has apes, the Party managed yesterday - for the first time in months - to look like an

For Education Questions the Government side had been almost full, the Opposition nearly empty. But for the Statement on Gibraltar, numbers reversed. A few Labour MPs bobbed about on the Tory fleet came sailing in, flagging outrage.

Slipping anchor was HMS Sir Peter Tapsell (Louth & Horncastle). a magnificent old warship fired by crude oil. In slid the vintage HMS Alan Clark (Kensington & Chelsea). still a dashing corvette.

Some judge HMS Michael Howard holed beneath the waterline, but this manoeuvreable destroyer retains a capacity for brutal firepower. The Tories' Shadow Foreign Secre-

tary began the skirmish. Howard was fierce and dignant that the Foreign Secretary was away skulking somewhere over the horizon. Howard launched an attack of such violence that we were left with the impression that Britain had been ambushed by Spain - or, worse, was poised to conclude some dark

Nobody actually used the word "Dago", and Howard didn't quite say that the only thing Johnny Spaniard respects is knuckles, but words like "surrender". "U-turn", "retreat" and "duped" streaked

MATTHEW PARRIS POLITICAL SKETCH

into Labour's timbers. "Cancel MPs' Spanish holidays!" cackled the Cleethorpes-loving Dennis Skinner, at Howard: "yer can alus trust im to go over t'top". But Howard's questions were tough and lucid. Roars of well-marshalled broadside.

The Government risked no big guns in this engagement,

requisitioning a cross-Channel ferry instead. Nice, levelheaded Joyce Quin. a junior Foreign Office minister, speaks on EU affairs. Yesterday she failed to singe the King of Spain's beard. The MS Quin is not equipped to

She (or the Foreign Office) had slightly misjudged the stead of firing a warning shot across Madrid's bows she parried the Commons, adopting an air of beseiged rationality as though MPs were making a silly fuss, and Michael Howard hysterical: "I can't think of a word which means the opposite of 'statesmanlike' but whatever it is, it applies to

'Unstatesmanlike? But if the Tories needed better manners towards Spain. Quin found they were not alone. Ted Rowlands, an FCO minister in a 70s Labour GovDavid Heath accused Spain

of "crude bullying". David Winnick (Lab) David thought Spanish behaviour "deplorable and provocative": Franco had been a fascist. Constituents of Lindsay Hoyle (Lab) were trapped at the Gibraitar border: "Let's take the kid gloves off," he declared, to Tory cheers. "Madrid should be told," said Labour's Norman Godman. The MS Quin

was shipping water.
And the Tory fleet steamed into battle. The HMS John

For the Liberal Democrats, cannon point permanently toward Ostend, demanded we "cut off supply" to Brussels "to concentrate the Spanish : mind". Michael Colvin wanted to dispatch a gunboar to protect fishermen. So did An-drew Tyrie, who had visited: "I was there!" The "bullying Spanish police were being

met by "appeasement". The MS Quin limped back to port. Tory guns still blaz-ing. She had held the FCO's course in King Charles Street that will raise a cheer. In Downing Street the battering she got may raise an eyebrow

£200m grant may be key to Rover deal

A SECRET deal under which BMW would pump more than £1 billion into Rover's beleaguered Longbridge plant in re-turn for up to £200 million of government cash was begin-

ning to take shape last night. The disclosure provides the first positive signal from the German firm that its newly constituted board sees a future for the plant and its 14,000 workers.

The details of a package, which would involve a commitment from BMW to build a new executive model at the West Midlands site, are currently being thrashed out between the carmakers and the Department of Trade and In-

Officials from the DTI are in daily contact with executives at BMW, Rover's parent company, and a final decision is expected within the next 10

The future of Longbridge and the 50,000 jobs said to depend on it have been hanging in the balance since the dra-BMW's Munich headquarters last week which saw the ousting of Bernd Pischetsrieder, the chief executive and Rover's ally at the top table.

However, ministers are encouraged that BMW has conTreasury funds could extract

a further £1bn from BMW,

writes Roland Watson

tinued its dialogue with the Government and is ready to talk in detail about the plant's

DTI officials have reached an understanding with BMW that if a deal were to go ahead, it would involve a substantial redesign of the sprawling plant and reskilling of its workers. Ministers are currently piecing together their own side of the deal, which would involve money given as regional

Stephen Byers, the Trade and Industry Secretary, has told his officials to ensure that coment of the plant. Any hint that government money was being used to prop up an ailing factory would fall foul of European Union competition

The money would have to

with the approval of Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, as it is not budgeted for in this year's DTI spending. But ministers are believed to be happy with a deal which would see every pound of taxpayers' money contributed by the Govern-ment extract five from BMW.

That would give Longbridge around £1.2 billion, including the critical commitment from BMW to build a successor to the Rover 200-400 series in the West Midlands. The figure is less than the sums of up to £1.75 billion which have been mentioned in recent months. but constitute enough to give Longbridge a future in the me-

dium term.
But BMW has yet to commit itself clearly to the future of the plant. Although Herr Pischetsrieder's departure was matched last week with the sacking of Wolfgang Reitzle, his heir apparent who had wanted BMW to ditch Longbridge, there remains doubt about BMW's intentions.

said last night: "We are maintaining close contact with BMW. We are prepared to look carefully at any package which improves productivity and makes the plant more

Cute,

cuddly



Vanessa Feltz: "It looks like there is a fashion for hoaxing" she said yesterday

Vanessa

Continued from page I the Vanessa production team to establish the facts. We will make any further findings public as soon as possible."
The corporation also an-

nounced a "full review of research procedures across all relevant programmes". A spokeswoman said: "Any programme that has members of the public taking an active part will have to be looked at thoroughly and carefully."

The latest blow to confession-

al viewing comes after the Broadcasting Standards Commission expressed anxiety about "victim television" and the exploitation of others' misfortunes" for the purposes of entertainment. Television's "contract of trust" with viewers has suffered considerable erosion over the last year, after an explosion of docusoaps and confessional chat shows, many of which have drawn critcisms of faking.

Ms Feltz's arch rival, Robert Kilroy-Silk, came under fire last summer for interviewing a self-confessed paedophile on his programme Kilroy. The man was arrested by police as soon as he came off the show but was later found to have been a hoaxer. Last week Channel Four admitted its documentary — Too Much Too Young: Chickens — about young male prostitutes had in-volved faked scenes.

In an earlier embarrassment, the channel had to pull another docusoap, Daddy's Girl, off screen at the eleventh hour after it emerged that the about their relationship. Carlton TV, makers of The Connection, were fined E2million by the Independent Television Commission for staged scenes.

Media diary, page 39

NEWS IN BRIEF Two more pupils get meningitis

Two sixth-formers at a school near the heart of an outbreak of meningitis in south Wales were yesterday confirmed as having the disease. All 1,100 pupils at their comprehensive school, eight miles from Pon-typridd, will be given antibiotics in an attempt to stop the illness spreading.

Fourteen people living in the area of Pontypridd have contracted meningitis in the past fortnight and three have died. Three schools in the town are already closed because of the outbreak and will not reopen until after the halfterm holiday. Health chiefs yesterday described the fresh cases at the Y Pant Comprehensive School in the village of Pontyclun as "very unusual". They are trying to estab-lish if there is any link to the earlier victims. One boy aged 17, was last night critically ill

Company guilty

The Austria-based engineering consultancy Geoconsult GES MBH, which failed to prevent the collapse of a tun-nel at Heathrow in 1994. was convicted of breaching health and safety law. The cave-in caused the cancellation of hundreds of flights. The company

Gladiators axed

The ITV gameshow Gladia-tors has been axed after seven seasons because of a decline in ratings. At its peak, the Sat-urday night show attracted 11 million viewers, but the last series, hosted by Ulrika Jonsson and Jeremy Guscott, had an average audience of just

Flight delays

Air travellers face delays and cancelled flights as new Euro-pean air traffic control flight routes are put in place. The changes, designed to cut air traffic delays and save fuel, will mainly affect flights to and from Switzerland from February 25, but flights to Italy are also likely to be hit.

Newly wed dies

A teacher who married his Czech sweetheart two weeks ago died just hours before his bride was to arrive in London to join him, his family said. ham, Wiltshire, married Lucie Krovotova, 22, in Prague, where doctors told him that he had leukaemia.

Film star Thomas

Thomas the Tank Engine is destined for Hollywood stardom in a multimillion-dollar musical. But the steam-train character may have to adopt an American accent for his big screen debut in Thomas and the Magic Railroad. A big name is being lined up to provide the voice for the part.

of a soldier whose Military Medal presentation by King George VI in 1946 was can-

MPs say MoD was offensive to 'Terriers'

BY MICHAEL EVANS DEFENCE EDITOR

THE Ministry of Defence was accused by an all-party Commons committee yesterday of behaving in a "patronising and offensive" way towards the Territorial Army, which is being cut by 25 per cent.

On the same day that Doug Henderson, the Armed Forces Minister, launched a £3 million advertising campaign to persuade young people to join the TA, the Commons Defence Committee, chaired by the Labour MP Bruce George, took the MoD to task for its "unwillingness" to consult properly with the TA over the planned

The committee's report said: "We are unimpressed by an ap-parent unwillingness with the MoD. including some senior elements of the regular Army. to listen to the voice of the volunteers."

We expect the future relations between the two parts of the Army to be characterised by mutual respect. It is the duty of ministers to act, and 10 be seen to act, quickly and fairly when conflicts, perceived or otherwise, between the two parts of the Army appear."

Mr Henderson rejected the comminee's criticism, saying that there had been four months of consultation before the plan for restructuring the TA was announced.

Dons say 50% pay increase is not enough

By JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION EDITOR

PROFESSORS at Cambridge University are in line for pay increases of up to 50 per cent under proposals expected to be agreed next week. Some senior academics claim, however, that only a doubling of the present £43,000 salary will at-tract the world's best brains.

Cambridge dons are voting on a professorial pay package, which would give the top academics an extra £22,000 - double the bonus currently awarded to a limited number of professors after three years' service. The rise would leave the top Cambridge professors more than £20,000 better off than professors on the stand-

Sir Keith Peters, head of the university's medical school, claimed last night that the new rate was still too low to enable Cambridge to compete with in-dustry and American universities. "Half a loaf is better than no bread but, when you are trying to recruit world-class professors, £80,000 is about the

ard salary of £40,500 at Ox-

minimum that is realistic." Several high-flyers from US universities had turned down offers of Cambridge chairs, Sir Keith said. "I can think of people who wanted to come back but simply couldn't afford it. Cambridge is a very attractive university, but the kind of people we are hoping to get are extremely well set up. We wouldn't want them other-

Sir Alec Broers, the Cambridge Vice-Chancellor, outlined the scale of the problem at a meeting of the House of Commons Science and Technology Committee earlier this month. He told MPs: "Americans just laugh at us."

The new package, which has been under discussion since June, is part of a wider review of the university's finances. David Livesey, secretarygeneral of the faculties, who is responsible for the proposals, said savings were being sought from other areas to make money available.

Cambridge has had a differential system of pay for profes-sors since 1989, but the university's General Board has acknowledged that other leading research institutions are now offering considerably higher

If the new bonuses were agreed, a special committee would nominate the beneficiaries, rather than the vice-chancellor, as at present.

Joan Whitehead, the Cambridge president of the Associa-tion of University Teachers, said higher salaries were needed for all academics, not just professors.

Bravery honour The Prince of Wales will today present a citation to the widow celled. Irene Shackleton will also learn for the first time of the wartime bravery which carned her husband Daniel the medal - he never told her.

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Sacked organist leaves abbey

BY RUTH GLEDHILL RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

MARTIN NEARY, the sacked organist of Westminster Abbey, quit his home in the 1,000-year-old abbey cloisters yesterday. He has a new job as consultant to a millennium youth choir being launched by the Royal School of Church Music.

As he removed the furnishings from the home he has occupied for ten years, the Abbey brought in the headhunters Saxton Barmfylde to find a new organist. It is thought to be the first time such an organisation has been used to fill such a post. Dr Neary, who lost his appeal to the Queen over his dismissal for financial irregularities, is about £100,000 short of his pursue any claim for costs and has E250.000 legal bill. A substantial amount has been met by friends who set up a fund to finance the appeal.

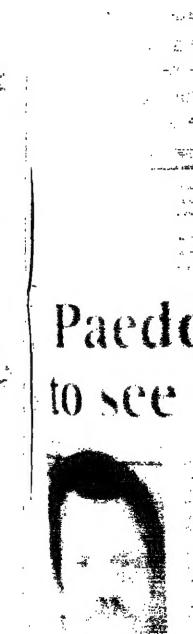
The appeal was heard last year by Lord Jauncey of Tulichettle, sitting as the Queen's special commissioner, whose verdict came down strongly in support of the Dean. Dr Wesley Carr.

Last-minute attempts by supporters of the organist to negotiate a pay-off to help with his costs were unsuccessful and the Abbey has refused to pay his salary from his sacking in April to the delivery of Lord Jauncey's judgment in December.

waived all rental charges on Dr Neary's home. In addition, there will be no attempt to recover £11,000 "secret profits" made by Dr Neary and his wife. Penny.

He was cleared of any dishonesty.

John McAngus, assistant receiver general for the Abbey, said: "The Dean and Chapter regret that even after the finding of the Queen's special commissioner, confirming the dismissal of Dr and Mrs Neary for gross misconduct, we are still dealing with recriminations and speculation, diverting resources from the Abbey's main purpose."



Diners thrown out by Fawlty hotelier

Paul Wilkinson reports on how a Saturday night out for a dozen diners ended in court

NEVILLE STABLEFORTH achieved more mayhem at his evening last year than the fic-tional Basil Fawlty ever did. From the start things were

pretty prickly in the dining room of the Fir Tree Country Yotel as poor service and long celays raised the tension for the diners on their Saturday night out. But matters did not boil over until nearly 10pm. when an 82-year-old customer had the temerity to complain that his meal was cold and

Stableforth, 37, who helped to run the hotel owned by his girlfriend, exploded. When the pensioner refused to pay, he threatened to punch him. At that, Edwin McNaughton, who himself had been waiting more than 90 minutes with his family for their meals to arrive, intervened.

An unchastened Stableforth, who later admitted he had been drinking, reacted by immediately ordering every-one out of the hotel in Crook. Co Durham. As the dozen or so bemused customers abandoned their plates and trooped 'yı, they were harassed with a nrade of abuse.

Outside in the car park Stableforth squared up to Mr Mc-Naughton and challenged him to a fight, delivering a blow with a speed the hungry diner had not expected at the Fir Tree Hotel. It cut Mr Mc-Naughton above his eye so badly he needed stitches.

The story was related yesterday at Durham Crown Court to Judge Denis Orde, who told Stableforth: "It may be amusing in a TV situation comedy but in real life it is not funny at



Neville Stableforth: was put on probation for two years

much custom if that is how

Stableforth, now living at

Gateshead, Tyne and Wear,

ly harm to Mr McNaughton

on August 22 last year and

bation for two

years. He was also ordered to

pay his victim £200 compensa-

tion for his ru-

and £200 court

costs. The restau-

rant is now un-

ship. After the

hearing Mr Mc-

Naughton, a ga-

rage manager from Crook, said: "He is

bound to be likened to Basil

Fawlty after the way he react-

ed but I think that's a shame.

because Basil is a bit of a hero

of mine. Neville Stableforth is

evening

you dealt with customers."

all to be on the receiving end of that sort of conduct. "Your conduct in this matter was very childish indeed but it was also very outrageous. It seems that was the one thing you could supply within a reasonable time. That man was

simply in the ho-I told him if tel with his elderly mother, wife he was going and family in order to have a to hit an old meal, or so he hoped. Even then, the row of man, he'd complaints seemed to come have to hit from other parties at another ta-ble. Whatever me as well?

the rights and wrongs of that, it was the end of the matter. But you chose to shout, abuse, harry and intimidate him and follow him out of the restaurant. It is not surprising that your business at that

by anyone." Mr McNaughton had taken his 74-year-old mother to the hotel to celebrate her success in gaining an A level in art. They were accompanied by her two grandchildren. He had ordered a grill, his mother a curry and the children fish and chips and a steak.

We got our starters around 8.20 and we waited and waited but by 9.55 we still hadn't got any food. We weren't happy but we were not alone. The peo-ple behind, including an 82-year-old man, complained that the food was cold and tasteless and asked to see the manageress. She came out with Stableforth and a row erupted and they refused to pay.
"At that moment our meals

anywhere he runs in future

will be highly recommended

arrived and we started to tuck in but the row was still going on next to us. I put my knife and fork down and turned to see what was happening, and he snarled at me: You big fat bastard, are you starting? I couldn't believe what I was hearing. I'm glad my mother

is hard of hearing.
"I told him if he was going to hit an old man, then he would have to hit me as well." He said Stableforth then erupted and told everyone in the dining room: "*** off, get out of the restaurant".

'He tried to bundle me out of the door but I told him I wasn't leaving without my family. I didn't want to leave them in there with a raving lunatic. When we got outside he made as though he was going to hit me with his left so I put my hands up. He then hit me with his right. I grabbed him the throat in self-defence, just to get him off me. I think he ended up with a bloody nose as well. He hit me very hard. I was in a bit of a mess.

elsewhere but everywhere was packed. I think his reputation travelled before him." In court Beatrice Bolton, for the prosecution, said: "Stableforth told them, just like Basil

"We had tried to book tables

Edwin McNaughton: punched after speaking up for an elderly diner at the hotel



then followed them outside and said to Mr McNaughton: 'Do you want to put me down? Well I will put you down'."

In mitigation, Anthony Braithwaite said: "At the time of the incident Stableforth was at a low ebb due to the poor financial straits." He had been

anxiety and, on that night, had mixed them with drink. Stableforth was full of remorse and could make no excuses. His girlfriend and he had since split up and the hotel had new owners. Stableforth told police at the time: "It was probably everything coming to a head and the poor fellah got

□ Under the Supply of Goods and Services Act 1982 a diner should expect a meal "produced with reasonable care and skill and in a "reasonable time". If the food is unacceptable the diner can refuse to pay all or part of the bill. If the service is poor but the food acceptable the diner can withhold all

Boy of 8 carried drug into jail, say police

BY ANNIE FLURY

A BOY aged eight was detained by police yesterday af-ter he was allegedly found carrying drugs on a prison visit.

A woman with the child, not his mother, was being questioned by detectives last night. The pair were detained in the morning as they went to visit an inmate in Barlinnie prison. Glasgow.

A spokeswoman for Strath-clyde Police said that they had not got as far as the visiting hall when they were stopped They had been taken to nearby Baird Street police station, where the boy had been found to be in possession of a quanti-ty of controlled drugs, believed to be heroin.

The spokeswoman said that the boy was later released and that a report would be submitted to the Reporter to the Children's Panel. She said the drugs had a street value of between £150 and £175 but could be worth about £500 inside the

Barlinnie, on the eastern outskirts of Glasgow, is Scotland's biggest prison, housing 1,100 inmates. Visiting times are no longer restricted to a particular time of day, and in many cases families book an appointment for a specific time beforehand.

David Melrose, chairman of the Scottish Prison Officers' Association, said it was difficult to stop drugs entering jails. "If we have open visit facilities, it is readily available for abuse." He said that in the past babies had been used to smuggle drugs into prisons. "The only thing that would stop it is a return to complete closed visits which is unacceptable in this

day and age."
Gaille McCann, a Glasgow councillor and founder mem-ber of Mothers Against Drugs, said that a stricter re-gime was needed in pris-ons. "Inmates will stop at nothing to get their drugs in. It is immoral."

The Scottish Prison Service declined to give a comment on

Officer is held over jail escape

By RICHARD FORD

A PRISON officer has been arrested after a man accused of involvement in an £8 million drug smuggling ring escaped from jail.

The officer was arrested

after being removed from duty at Wormwood Scrubs in West London after a Prison Service inquiry into the escape of Tony Lavene. He was questioned about suspicions that Mr Lavene was helped to escape.

Mr Lavene, 54, fled last month after being taken to the visiting area for an arranged visit with his wife. She did not arrive and Mr Lavene manged to walk out unchal-lenged, past security cameras and doors.

He was not discovered missing until two hours later when a roll-call was held at 4pm. He is still at large.

One theory to be investigated by police is that Mr Lavene, from Cheshire, was wrearing black trousers and a white shirt similar to the uniform worn by prison officers.

Mr Lavene was on remand at the jail, facing charges of possessing drugs with intent to supply.

ave able

Paedophile flew to America to see girl he met on Internet



Waddup: he may now be deported, say police

By STEWART TENDLER

CRIME CORRESPONDENT

BRETISH detectives first began searching the internet for paedophiles in the early 1990s, of

ien working with other agencies in the US and Europe.

Paedophiles use the Internet to pass on

vast amounts of pornography and to pose as pealrights to make contact with children. Police, in man, comb the Net for suspicious web-

sites and set up their own "sting sites"; pos-

ing as paedophiles to make contacts. In 1994

A BRITISH paedophile has been arrested in America as he met a girl of 15 whom he had got to know on the Internet from Tyneside. It is believed he hoped to make her his child

Police in Cincinnati, Ohio. say that that Ian Waddup, 37, established a relationship with the girl over many hours spent on the Internet. After flying out to meet her, he told them that he planned to stay in the US until her l6th birthday in May and then bring her back to England.

Last night Waddup, who has convictions for indecent assaults on boys and girls as far

POLICE LURE CHILD ABUSERS WITH 'STING SITES'

Man hoped to take teenager home to Tyneside, writes Paul Wilkinson

back as 1977 and as recently as 1994, was facing charges alleg-ing corruption of a minor and that he interfered with the parental custody of a child. He is due to appear in court on March 4, but could be deported as an undesireable alien.

Details about Waddup were sent to Interpol on Monday soon after he left for the US, as a neighbour in Newcastle had passed on details of his plans. The information was still on its way to Cincinnati police

an investigation led to arrests in Britain and

Europe during which police recovered 900 pornographic images of children.

Police are now increasingly concerned about the spread of "encryption" software.

which encodes text or images before transmit-

ting them along telephone lines. Such materi-

al cannot be deciphered by officers monitor-ing Injernet transmissions through phone taps, and police want the "keys" to new en-cryption systems to be held by an independ-ent agency and made available to them for surveillance.

when he was arrested later that same day, after a member of the public saw with him with the girl and alerted po-The girl's parents, who live

in a good neighbourhood in Hamilton, near Cincinnati. were said to be horrified when they learned of their daughter's liaison. Detective Joseph Warren of Springdale police department said: "I am convinced he was a danger to that girl. During interview, he admitted to us that he had been convicted of three indecent asaults on boys and girls aged between 6 and 12 or 13.

"It is of great concern to us and the parents of this young girl that a man with his background had arranged to meet her in this way. I believe she could very well have been in danger from him."

He said they first came into contact with each other in Jan-uary 1998 and had been corresponding by letter, E-mail and telephonet. "Her parents became aware of what had been happening in the past year and tried their best to put a stop to it. But their daughter arranged to meet Mr Waddup and he flew to the States with the intention of staying here until May when she was 16. At that point we believe they intended to fly back to England."

Waddup flew to Cincinnati via Chicago after telling his elderly aunt, who shares his three-bedroomed council semi in Newcastle, that he was going to a job as a chef.

The girl played truant from school and took a taxi to the airport to meet him. They went by cab to a shopping mall where a passer-by alerted a woman police officer. Detective Warren said: "A citizen thought they just didn't look

right together."

Details had since been passed to the US Attorney General's office. Detective Warren said: "Interpol received a tip from someone who knew what he was coming here to do."Waddup had at least three convictions betweeen 1977 and 1994 in the UK for sex offences against children under 13. The last was on May 6 1994, when he was given three years probation for indecent assault. He is not on the sex offenders'

Union ruins prisoners' big night in

BY RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

brought down on nights of opera at a jail after prison officers refused to work extra hours voluntarily.

By withdrawing their goodwill, the officers at Downview jail in Surrey have forced Pim-lico Opera to return 500 tickets to music lovers and to lose £5,000 in much-needed funds. In protest at the imposition of a nationwide 2.7 per cent pay settlement. prison officers across the country have withdrawn goodwill working under which they work extra hours in exchange for time off at a later date, instead of pay.

Jessica Wanamaker. Pimli-co's administrator, said: "It is a great shame but not the end of the world. I understand the position of the officers. This is the only action they can take as they are banned from taking industrial action. It is very unfortunate. We are just sorry for the prisoners."

Piralico Opera, a small company of which Sir Stephen Tumim, the former Chief Inspector of Prisons, is a patron, had planned to perform Kurt

THE curtain has been Weill and Bertolt Brecht's The Threepenny Opera for prisoners, their families and people on the company's mailing list for four nights this week.

Six singers from the company were to be joined by about 20 male prisoners on stage in the jail's gym for a nightly per-formance. Inmates at the lowsecurity Category C jail had also helped back stage.

Prison officers had volunteered to stay at work beyond their normal shift time to help handle the 250 people arriving at the jail to see each performance and to ensure security at the prison. But after offic-ers had deductions made from the pay after taking part in an hour-long protest over pay last month, they withdrew their goodwill.

Pimlico was forced at short notice to hold two afternoon performances for the 250 guests; and in the evening, instead of performances, to put on two "dress rehearsals" which could be watched by a maximum of 20 people.

Richard Morrison, page 35

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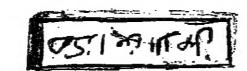
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THE COMPUTER SUPERSTORE

War crimes suspect faces his accuser

THE former British Rail ticket collector accused of war crimes yesterday faced a former schoolfriend who claims he saw him murdering 15 naked Jewish women with a sub-machinegun.

Fedor Zan, 75, a prosecution witnes: against Anthony Sa-woniuk, gave no evidence during his brief appearance in an

Old Bailey courtroom.

He merely identified himself and took the oath nervously in a mixture of Belorussian and Ukrainian. That will enable him to be a sworn witness when he accompanies the jury on Tuesday to Domachevo in Belarus, where Mr Sawoniuk was alleged to have been a member of a search-and-kill squad tracking down Jews who escaped the main massacre of 2,900 men, women and children in the village in 1942.

As Mr Zan, who still lives in

the Domachevo area, stood in the witness box, Mr Sawoniuk stared intently at him. It appeared that they exchanged a brief glance but neither gave an indication he had ever known the other.

The court had been told by John Nutting, QC, for the pros-ecution, that Mr Zan saw Mr Sawoniuk carry out a mass execution on a day in September 1942 when he hid behind some bushes after he heard women crying. Mr Nutting said: "He known as the "road of death", to their execution.

mixed ages with yellow patches on their clothing standing

known as the "road of death", to their execution.

Professor Christopher

Browning, a leading authority in front of an open grave. The defendant was standing behind the women armed with a sub-machinegun. He ordered the women to remove their clothes and then shot them with the weapon. As they died,

Browning, a leading authority on the Holocaust, said that af-

ter the German advance into

Soviet-occupied territory in

1941 German police had decided that locally recruited young

men could carry out what they

and police shot adult Jews, even the feared SS found the

task of murdering young chil-dren unpleasant. That grue-

some deed, Professor Brown-

ing said, was handed to local groups, who were required to

enforce the occupation policies

Mr Sawoniuk, 77, from Ber-

mondsey, southeast London,

denies four charges of murder.

The hearing continues.

laid down by the Nazis.

While German army units

described as "dirty work".

they collapsed into the grave." Mr Zan, the jury was told, had watched his friend's transition from schoolboy to policeman, "from being just another youngster to one of those exercising a ruthless authority over Jew and gentile alike". On one occasion, it is al-

leged, Mr Zan had seen his aunt and her family being tak-en to their execution by Mr Sawoniuk because of suspected association with anti-Nazi partisans. On another, Mr Nutting said, Mr Zan had seen the defendant taking a group of women who had been hiding in the ghetto towards the po-lice station. The witness noticed that one of them had a baby and saw the defendant hitting her with his hand with such force that she dropped

the baby to the ground."

Later, he said, Mr Zan saw Mr Sawoniuk taking the same group in the direction of the sand hills, the area where the Jews were taken down a track,



Anthony Sawonink, left, and Fedor Zan yesterday

curbs on quarrying

BY NICK NUTTALL ENVIRONMENT . CORRESPONDENT

THOUSANDS of quarrying rights are to be subject to new environmental regulations after a ruling in the House of Lords yesterday. The change could lead to many proposed

workings being dropped, to the delight of conservationists. Quarry concessions dating back to 1947 to extract sand. gravel, rock, peat and other minerals will be subject to modern impact assessments. Some 5,000 quarrying and extraction permissions are expected to be affected. Many sites are likely to be considered

too costly to develop. Yesterday's ruling centred on old rights to quarry at Preston-under-Scar, North Yorkshire. Efforts by a landowner to re-register his historic rights to open a quarry had been opposed by two local residents.

The dispute went to the Lords who ruled that old quarry permissions should be subject to a European Union directive on environmental impact

Lords put | Help for the drunks aged 12

By A Correspondent

PUPILS who arrive at school with hangovers are to be offered counselling. The initiative follows a growing number of teachers reporting children

as young as 12 with obvious signs of alcohol excess.

West Lothian Council is working with the region's drug and alcohol project on a E20,000 scheme that will provide counselling and advice to children involved in drinking or substance misuse.

Teachers in the region's schools will receive training in how to talk to pupils about the dangers of drink, drugs and cigarettes. Pupils who persist will be referred to the education authority's drugs and alco-hol unit for professional help.

Yesterday a teacher at Deans Community High School, in Livingston, West Lothian, said: "I've seen children as young as 12 arrive late on a Monday hungover and unable

to learn anything. It is a much bigger problem than drugs." The campaign will also help children from families with alcohol or drug problems.

Grand Prix boss hits hedge hitch

By PETER GLEESON

THE motor racing magnate Sir Frank Williams has amassed a £50 million fortune by making cars go faster. But his attempts to widen the driveway to his £3 million country estate look unlikely to

get off the starting grid.
The parish council and neighbours of Sir Frank, head of the Williams grand prix team, say that his plans to remove an 800ft hedge will ruin a vital ecosystem for birds and

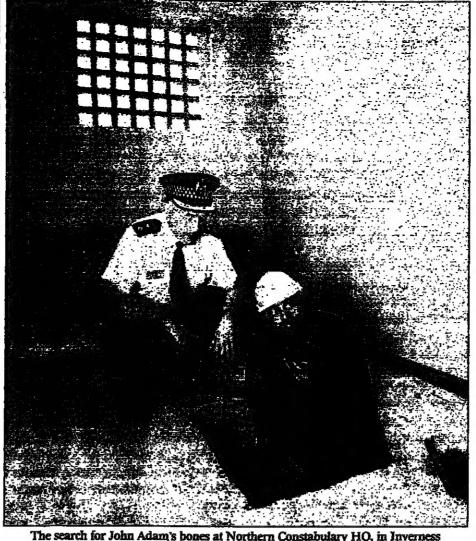
The hedge would have to go to improve the oft-wide drivewayat his home in Hungerford, Berkshire. Philip Gardener, a parish councillor, said its removal would be opposed when the planning com-mittee meets next month. "A hedge should never be taken out. It sounds quite old and is probably a significant environ-ment for birds and insects.



Williams: said hedge "not of historic significance"

This seems a flimsy reason for damaging the ecosystem," Mr Gardener said.

In the removal notice lodged with the council, Sir Frank said the hedge was "not thought to be of historic significance or important". The Williams team declined to com-



The search for John Adam's bones at Northern Constabulary HQ, in Inverness

Killer sought — 160 years after his execution

A SEARCH began yesterday for the body of a murderer

150 years ago. The remains of John Adam have already been exhumed three times to comply with the orders of a 19th century judge that he should forever lie beneath the police cells in Inverness. Development in the town means that, once again. he is on the move.

But the apparently simple task of removing Adam's bones from beneath the North-ern Constabulary headquarters, which are to be redeveloped, has been complicated by an oversight when they were last reburied, in 1975. No one bothered to note exactly where he was interred.

Radar equipment used to locate the bodies of murder victims is being used in the hunt. It should pinpoint the spot where Adam lies in a wooden casket, encased in concrete. It is proposed to rebury the murderer's bones when the building of new headquarters is completed. If the Crown Office approves, Adam will lie

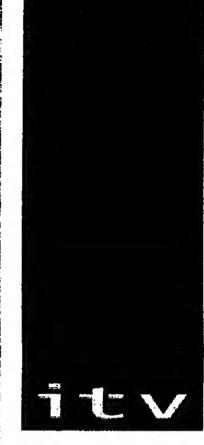
Adam, an army deserter, was sent to the gallows in 1835 with the command from the judge that he should be buried in unconsecrated ground "within the said Toilbooth

prison at Inverness". The last man to be hanged in public in Inverness, he was executed for the murder of his wife. The crime was committed in Millbuie, where Adam used to visit a mistress. His suspicious wife had insisted on accompanying him on the

day she met her death.
Colin Sutherland, a former
police inspector who has researched the case, said: "I think the reason his remains have been moved about so much is that the judge's order still has legal authority." But Sheila MacKay, chair-

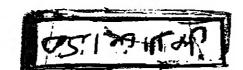
man of Inverness Local History Forum, said it was time that Adam "was finally left to





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Judges cut sentences of gay party men

Campaigners call for change in the law after court refuses to overturn convictions, reports Adrian Lee

FIVE men convicted of taking part in homosexual sex parties that were recorded on home video had their sentences reduced by the Court of Appeal

yesterday. The group — part of the so-called Bolton Seven — were convicted a year ago in a case that became a focal point for gay rights campaigners and which is estimated to have cost the taxpayer £750.000. The sentences imposed on the five, who were apprehended after police seized a video, were too severe, judges ruled. But, they said, it would be wrong to give the men the absolute discharg-es they sought because the offences were serious.

All had taken part willingly and behind closed doors but were prosecuted because homosexual sex is only lawful if no more than two men, aged at least 18, are involved.

Campaigners for the men condemned the decision as a missed opportunity to right legal inequalities between the treatment of homosexuals and heterosexuals and said they were considering taking the case to the House of Lords. One of the seven involved in the case did not appeal and another case is pending.

Mr Justice Maurice Kay, sitting with Mrs Justice Brace-

well, substituted lesser terms on Gary Abdie, 22, Jonathan Moore, 21, Mark Love. 21, Derek Godfrey, 26, and another man who cannot be named because of his age. The men, from Bolton, Lancashire, had been given probation or community service for offences of

gross indecency or buggery. Terry Connell, 55, one of the seven, whose appeal is next month, stood outside court with a banner proclaiming the men's innocence. None of the other men was present.

Janet Cragg, the men's solicitor, said afterwards: "This is at best a technical victory. The judgment shows that homophobia is alive and well in the court of law. This was a missed opportunity to send a message that the police and the CPS should not pursue these

Lawyers for the five had argued that, under European law, the men should have been

Abdie: settled down in a heterosexual relationship

treated in the same way as heterosexuals because the acts took place in private. The Court of Appeal rejected that

The court ruled that although consensual homosexu-al offences were not viewed with the seriousness with which they once were, the original trial judge had been entitled to conclude that the offences were serious enough to war-

rant community service. Although there was no com-

This is at best a technical victory. The judgment shows that homophobia is alive and well in the

court of law?

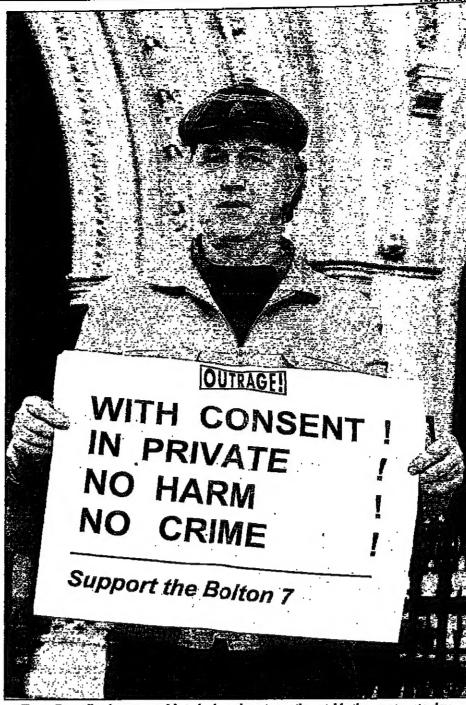
were not meant for wider distribution, the offences might be seen as more se: ous than a single consensual act between two men of similar age and experience in a public lavatory. Probation orders of 12

months were substituted in the case of the 17-year-old, Godfrey, and Love, who had been given combination orders of 12 months probation and 100 hours community service. Moore, who was given two years probation, had that reduced to 12 months. Abdie, who was the least involved and has since settled down in a heterosexual relationship. had his 150 hours' community service replaced with a oneyear conditional discharge.

The case had attracted widespread interest and, as a result of publicity, several of the men were assaulted. The Crown Prosecution Service said at the time that it was in the public interest to prosecute.

Evan Harris, Liberal Democrat MP for Oxford West and Abingdon, who has campaigned for the men, said the case illustrated the need for a change in the law. "I feel strongly that consensual sex done in private should be left there. The State has no business prying. It is a complete waste of public mon-

ey pursuing cases like these.
"This discriminatory law is rooted in the 19th century. The Government must amend the law before the European Convention on Human Rights forc-



Terry Connell, whose appeal is to be heard next month, outside the court yesterday

NEWS IN BRIEF Flames ad distresses viewers

A television advertisement for a new magazine, which shows people apparently bursting into flames, has prompted about 150 complaints. Viewers told the Independent Television Commission that the images were distressing and to-tally inappropriate. The Fire Brigades Union said: "People who have lost a relation in a fire could be grief-stricken by these advertisements.

The images show a flame effect around people as they be-come engrossed in the entertainment magazine Heat. EMAP Metro, its publisher, said: "It is not our intention to offend. We have taken a surreal approach to the creative idea of reading the 'hottest'

Rugby star jailed

Paul Ringer, a former Welsh rugby international, was jailed for 12 months for trying to conceal money in the United States after the collapse of his property company. Ringer, 50, of Penarth, admitted fraud at Cardiff Crown Court.

Verdict on Net

The report on the police handling of the murder of the black schoolboy Stephen Lawrence will be put on the Internet within a few weeks of its publication. The report will reach Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, next week.

Army widow wins

Leanda Dewhurst, 26, from Stockton-on-Tees. accepted £358,000 compensation from the Defence Ministry over her husband, Paul, 25, a lance bombardier who died when 'an armoured car overturned on exercises in Canada in 1993.

Bonus sought

Train drivers want a £500 bonus for working on New Year's Eve, when many people cele-brating the turn of the millennium will be using public transport. The drivers' union Aslef is shortly to begin talks with the train companies

No complaints

An elderly man handed over £4,000 for cancer research after requesting an appointment with Mike Pollard, chief executive of James Paget Hospital in Gorleston, Norfolk. Mr Pollard had expected a complaint from the anonymous man.

Rooted in past

THE TIMES

Nine teeth pulled from such notable mouths as those of Queen Victoria and Florence Nightingale have been bought by Paul Tipton, a Manchester dentist, for £1,840. The collection was assembled by Charles DuMerges, a society dentist.

TIMES

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Tips from the top as Bear drops in By HANNAH BETTS

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ganised. Have someone take

charge of the cutting out and

counting of tokens on a daily

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ATLAS OF THE WORLD

Token, page 26

them something to aim at.

for the scheme.

PUPILS who have saved the largest total of Free Books for Schools tokens so far were each rewarded yesterday with a shake of the paw from a special deliveryman. Paddington Bear, the character created by Michael Bond, arrived with 36 books at Hill View Primary in Banbury. Oxfordshire. The school has collected

17,000 tokens from Walkers snacks. The Times and other News International newspapers since January, the most of 26,500 schools in the scheme.

Jan Buxton, the literacy co-ordinator at Hill View, attributed its success to strong community spirit: "Free Books for Schools has had a tremendous impact and given children and parents a real impetus to get in-volved with a project that will

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CHANGING TIMES

Art lover who never forgot his British roots

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

PAUL MELLON, the late, great American Anglophile has left huge gifts to the US National Gallery and the British art centre that he founded at Yale University, as well as a string of bequests to British institutions including the Royal Academy of Arts and his old Cambridge college.

The billionaire philanthropist, who died on February 1 at the age of 91, also reflected his passion for horse racing, which gave the world the celebrated Derby winner Mill Reef, by providing for his hors-es and leaving millions of dol-lars to British racing charities. The principal beneficiary of

Mr Mellon's will, which was made public yesterday, was the National Gallery that his father, the industrialist, threetime Treasury Secretary and US Ambassador to Britain, Andrew Mellon, established on the Washington Mall in 1933. It is to receive £46 million and more than 100 works from Mr

Like most of the objects be-queathed by the will, however, the paintings will remain with his widow, Rachel "Bunny" Lambert Mellon, until her death. She received £67.5 million, as well as her husband's best American abstract works. Mr Mellon's collection of some 130 pieces of British art

Mellon's collection of French

and American art, which are worth many times the cash

The works include two oils

by van Gogh — Still Life of Or-anges and Lemons with Blue Gloves (1889) and Green Wheat Fields, Auvers (1890) —

as well as 13 by Seurat, 10 by Bonnard and pieces by Ce-

zanne, Braque, Delacroix.

Monet and Renoir.

went to the Yale Center for British Art, which he set up in 1977, along with another cash gift of £46 million.

"It is one of the great bene-factions," Patrick McCaughey, the centre's director, said. The Yale centre will be a selfsustained institution virtually great and avid collector of Brit- in the 1971 Epsom Derby; and



Paul Mellon, viewing Dressed Ballet Dancer by Degas at a Washington exhibition, made bequests to Cambridge, Clare College, the Royal Academy

ish sporting pictures. In many ways, the greatest British sporting pictures were with him and will come to us."

Mr Mellon also asked that the "founder's room" be set aside in the building for personal items, many of which demonstrated his life-long attachment to Britain. They include a pair of bookends given to him by Oxford University; a horse-shoe worn by Mill Reef

"the two emblazoned Clare College Boat Club oars won by me at Cambridge".

Mr Mellon was the son of Nora McMullen, an English brewer's daughter whom his father met on a transatlantic crossing. He was born in Pennsylvania but christened in St George's Chapet at Windsor Castle. His youth overshadowed by his parents' divorce, he went to school in America

and modest to a fault, he acted his mother's family near Windsor. At Yale, he became an afias the perfect English gentlecionado of British arts and letman and in 1974 received an ters, and returned to Britain in honorary knighthood. In his 1929 to study history at Clare will, Mr Mellon remembers College, where he rowed and developed a love of fox hunting. During the war he served in the London bureau of the Of-

run by his brother-in-law, Dav-

Always impeccably dressed

many of the British institutions that shaped his life. Cambridge University re-ceives £4.9 million and Clare fice of Strategic Services, the American intelligence agency

College £3 million. The university's vice-chancellor, Professor Sir Alec Broers, said: "We were saddened to learn of Paul

ularly moving to know that he has remembered Cambridge in his will."

Among other British beneficiaries are the Royal Academy of Arts and the National Trust for Historic Preservation with £3 million each; the Appren-tice School Charitable Trust of the British Racing School with £1.5 million; the Royal Veterinary College with £600,000; and the Animal Health Trust of Newmarket with £300,000.

American collector's tastes were ahead of his time

OF ALL the great American art col-lectors. Paul Mellon had the most discerning appetite for British painting. While buying the choicest Impressionists, and Americans as outstanding as Winslow Homer or Mark Rothko, he also hunted out far less familiar work by overlooked British artists of the past.

His taste was so catholic, and in many respects ahead of his time, that he helped to transform everyone's notions about the achievements of our national school. I still remember the impact of the Royal Academy's 1964 exhibition, Painting in England

ON PORTABL

Richard Cork on some of the artists championed by Paul Mellon

1700-1850, drawn exclusively from Paul Mellon's then fast-growing collection. It opened our eyes to the merits of unsung artists: John Hamilton Mortimer's piercing yet affectionate portrait of Mrs Lushington: Francis Danby's romantic vision of the woods near Clifton; or Francis Wheatley's shamelessly erotic Girls Bathing by a Waterfall

All these paintings, and many others besides, now enjoy a permanent home in the Yale Center for British Art. The building has just reopened after extensive renovation with a trio of exhibitions devoted to Francis Bacon, Lucian Freud and Henry Moore. Mellon's collection, though, surveys the entire history of British painting with a sweep second only to the Tate Gallery. Constable is seen at his thunderous best in a luminous, cloud-swept panorama of Hadleigh Castle and its sunlit coastal setting: Turner is represented in all his astonishing variety, from the Claude-in-

spired painting of Lake Avernus to a late, near-abstract canvas called Stormy Sea Breaking on a Shore.

If one painter can be said to sum up Mellon's love of British art, it is George Stubbs. Instinctively drawn to Stubbs through his involvement with horse racing, Mellon purchased key examples of his work. Nothing could be more speciacular than Stubbs's early showpiece of animal ferocity, Lion Attacking a Horse. But Mellon also acquired a quiet, tender

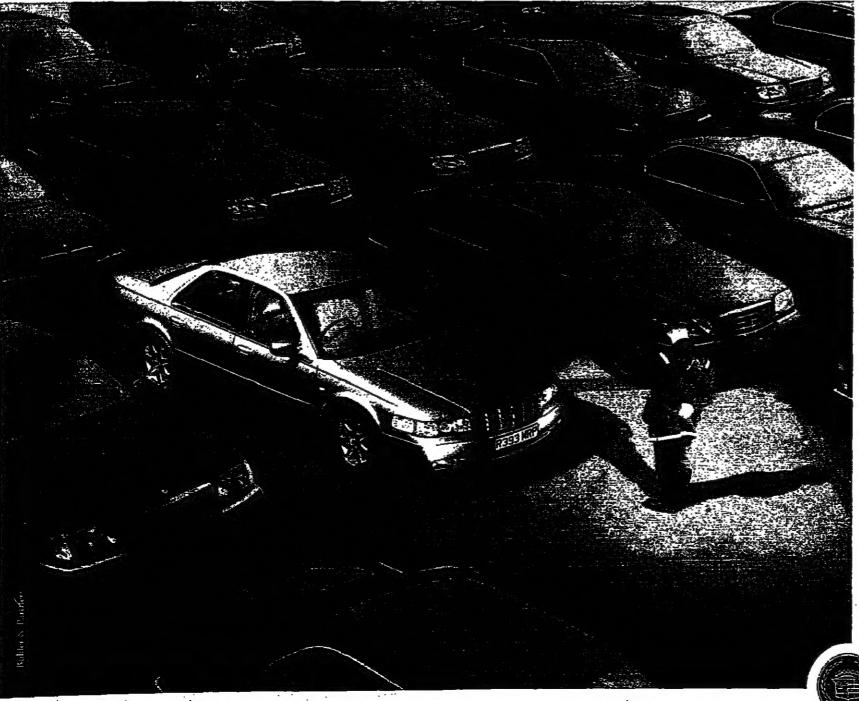
painting of a zebra isolated in a for-est, and his sense of humour prompted him to buy Stubbs's portrait of a stranded white poodle looking woebegone on a boat.

In London, we have special reason to thank this outstanding philanthro-pist. He established the Paul Mellon Centre for Studies in British Art, which has revolutionised serious historical research into the subject. Based in Bedford Square, the centre supports the preparation and printing of books on British artists that would otherwise be commercially impossible to publish on a grand scale.



The spectacular early Stubbs, Lion Attacking a Horse

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How much tax? You choose, says council

THE opportunity to set their own council tax in a revolutionary referendum has divided families and neighbours in the new town of Milton Keynes.

The Buckinghamshire town has been gripped by political passion and self-interest ahead of the poll, which closes next Friday. Voters are being offered a choice between tax increases of 5 per cent, 9.8 per cent and 15 per cent.

All three options involve reductions of £8.7 million in the budget but by their choice, voters can opt for stringent cuts or extra spending in areas such as schools and provision for the elderly.

Council taxpayers have been angered to learn that neighbours who pay nothing can vote to put up their taxes: hard-up pensioners and the unemployed fear that pennypinching homeowners could cost them community centres. mobility buses and home helps: idealistic teenagers and education-minded mothers are accused of showing their generosity at the expense of fa-

ther's wallet. The repercussions will ex-tend well beyond the pockets of the taxpayers: Tony Blair has indicated that local referendums - particularly for the approval of large tax increases -

Milton Keynes referendum asks residents to pick

better services or lower bills, says

Mark Henderson form a key part of his agenda for revitalising local govern-

The vote will not be legally binding, although the council has pledged to abide by it. However planned legislation will make similar ballots, and the rivalries that go with them. a regular feature of local de-

mocracy throughout Britain. Local election turnouts are the lowest in Europe. It is hoped that referendums will encourage people to take an interest in local politics, as well as preventing tax-and-spend

The Milton Keynes experience certainly suggests a new enthusiasm. Over 30,000 of the 150,000 ballot papers have already been returned. With a flurry of late votes expected before the deadline, councillors are confident the 39,000 turnout at last year's local elections will be exceeded by far.

Not everyone thinks the referendum a good idea. Brian Willatts, 52, an engineering manager, said it was wrong that the votes of non-taxpayers could put up his tax. "People who pay nothing but use lots of services have no incentive not to vote for the biggest rise." At the British Legion Club

in Tattenhoe, pensioners have decided to vote for 15 per cent to guarantee them better services, even though many members get significant council tax rebates. John Docherty, 63, and his wife, Sarah, 60, will vote for the highest increase. "If you want better services like this, you've got to be pre-pared to pay for them." Mrs

Claire Van Tomben, a sales administrator, said: "I feel caught in the middle really, because I don't want a big tax rise but I would like to see more done for the elderly. It's certainly got people thinking. even if most of us are pretty cynical about it. Lots of people say they're going to vote for 5 per cent in protest as the council will put it up lots anyway."

gating its responsibilities in a simplistic plebiscite. The op-

no consideration of alterna-

have the courage to do that they shouldn't be in power."

£70.000 cost - as much as the

annual budget of a small pri-

also questioned the

Kevin Wilson, the council leader, said the referendum of-fered a real choice. "We felt it Opposition politicians said the whole idea was flawed. right to ask people what they wanted, and we'll abide by David Hopkins, the Tory leadwhat they tell us," he said. "It er, said the council was abro-

mary school.

is inevitable that cuts or big tax rises will be painful, and tions are a fait accompli with we wish it were easier, but it is the people of Milton Keynes tives." he said. "The most vital who should be choosing betask of a majority council is to set a budget and if they don't tween the two."

The new town has been a pioneer since its birth 32 years ago. It was built on an American-style grid of wide dual carriageways and roundabouts centred on a shopping mail. Critics have condemned it

as soulless but the town goes from strength to strength. It al-ways scores well in quality of life surveys and boasts the fastest-growing population in Brit-ain: 174,000 at the last count.

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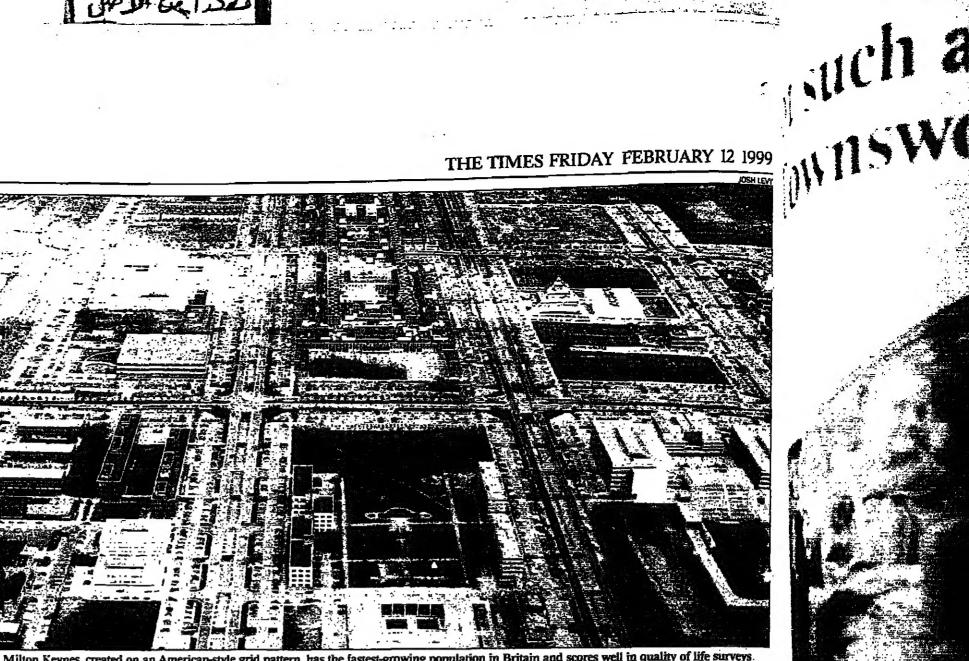
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Milton Keynes, created on an American-style grid pattern, has the fastest-growing population in Britain and scores well in quality of life surveys.

THE PEOPLE'S CHOICE

Option 1 (Council recommendation):

9.8% rise, £8.7 million saving package including: Youth services: £100,000

Nursery fees: £100,000 Children's play centre fees: £200,000 Road cleaning: £50,000 Concessionary fares rises:

£100,000 Delayed tran £1 million

Road repairs: £200,000

Option 2 5% rise; £8.7 million savings peckage, plus extra cuts: including

Schools: £450,000 Libraries: £100,000 Youth services: £100,000 £100,000 Leisure: £250,000 (leisure

centre to close) Home care: £100,000 Community transport: £50,000 Cleaning: £100,000 15% rise; £8.7 million saving package, plus extra spending including:

Schools: extra £600,000 Special educational ne extra £150.000 Youth services extra £100,000 Regeneration: extra £150,000 £100,000

£200,000 Cleaning: extra £100,000

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There's a Great Deal going on

Public get new look champion

By VALERIE ELLIOTT WHITEHALL EDITOR

THE Government yesterday took the first step towards crebudsman to handle complaints about the full range of public services.

MPs were told that the role of the present Parliamentary and Health Services Ombudsman. Michael Buckley, was to be expanded. From next month he will have responsibility for the investigation of complaints against 158 bodies and quangos ranging from the Food Advisory Committee to Hampton Court.

It is the first step towards the creation of an ombudsman's office that would act as a "one-stop shop" to filter complaints for all watchdogs and to pass them on to the relevant person for action. It is expected that Mr Buckley will be the person appointed to the role when it is introduced.

Racists may be publicly shamed By STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

CONVICTED racists may be

"named and shamed" by police under Scotland Yard proposals to combat attacks on

Senior officers are consider-ing plans that would treat racists convicted of repeated attacks or harassment in the same way that paedophiles can be identified to local communities and schools. Once a racist had been convicted three times, details of

passed by police to local news-papers. Ethnic minority com-munities would also be told that the racist was in the area. Those named could include members and officials of extreme right-wing political

his convictions would be

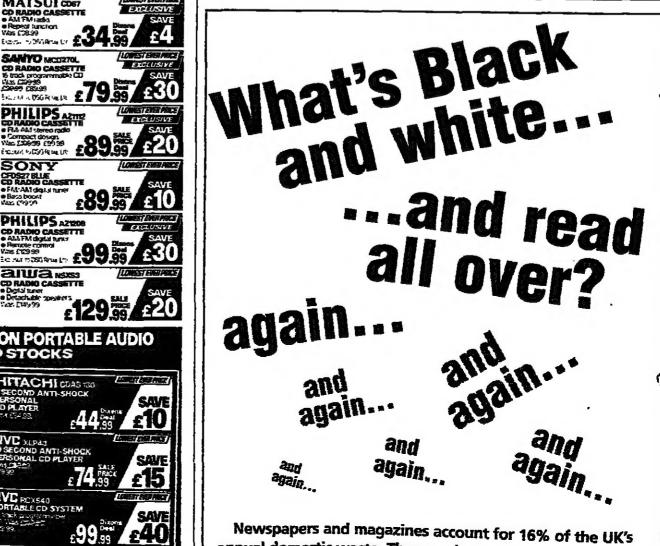
groups involved in racist material such as leaflets. newspapers and graffiti. Police believe that giving constant publicity to offences would build up public opposi-tion to racism. The idea is part

of a blueprint for tackling racism drawn up by a special unit at Scotland Yard and being circulated to every police station

Officers will be asked if the naming and shaming might itself create more violence by encouraging ethnic minority communities to take revenge.

The blueprint also suggests that members of the ethnic minorities accompany officers or the beat to help to reassure people that police were taking race attacks seriously. Police help-centres could also be set up away from police stations to encourage people to talk to officers without feeling ill at

The strategy suggests looking at how racial hatred is passed on through genera-tions by studying families involved in racism. Young offenders could be ordered to work in black or Asian communities as part of sentences.



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Not such a gay day at the Townswomen's Guild



Time to listen: guild members at the talk yesterday. "It was interesting but I can't really get to grips with the whole idea," one of them said later

Elizabeth Judge on thoroughly modern delegates' reaction to tales of being a lesbian parent

MANY of them were born in athe days when "gay" usually meant light-hearted and happy. Yesterday some of the implications of its modern mean-ing left them looking less than

icisis may

Mich shan

It was the day that members of the Townswomen's Guilds decided it was time to learn

about lesbian parenting. The guilds are perhaps best known for activities such as dances and tapestry, but they are determined to keep up with the times. They have been on the Internet for two years, and recently voted overwhelmingly in favour of using cannabis for medicinal purposes. Yesterday, however, may

have been a step too far. Two hundred women had travelled from all over the country for a one-day conference on The Family "Myth & Kin", where a main speaker was the gay rights activist Angela Mason. Rows of greying-haired women with rouged cheeks and gold-rimmed spectacles peered intently as she began to talk about married life

A silence filled the room and many an eyebrow was raised as she described her own experience with her partner of 28 years and their daughter. One delegate in a navy cardigan played - nervously with her pearl necklace. A frail-looking lady in a grey skirt and pink blouse had a puzzled look as Ms Mason discussed artificial

Even those who had talked beforehand about their willingness to embrace a variety of ideas looked uncomfortable.



Mason: "We can learn from each other"

said: "It was a real eye-opener

Some responded with blank gazes to Ms Mason's jokes, such as about the risk of her daughter "catching" lesbianism. Many of the audience were from a generation that had lived and coped admirably through decades of huge social change, but some admitted being stunned by the 40-minute talk. Veronica Hammond, 63, a guild member for 20 years,

for a lot of people and would have shocked them. A lot of people won't agree with what Angela said. It's because we grew up in such a different so-

Doreen Bayman, 69, said: "She didn't really impress me. It was interesting to listen to her speaking but I can't really get to grips with the whole idea. The society we live in now is very different from the one I grew up in."

Sandra Yeoman, 42, from Dorset, said: "You don't associate the guild with lesbians. It's a delicate subject. We've got a fuddy duddy image and really we steer away from anything that might offend. But I think you have to live and let live."

There was praise from Lona Murray, 77, who thought that Ms Mason had been brave: "She made me realise that I have to be more tolerant. She came over as being very human and really made me

Ms Mason, executive director of the lobby group Stonewall, said that she had enjoyed addressing the women: They all listened attentively and sympathetically, although I have no doubt they disagreed with much of what was said.

We can learn from each other." The conference also included an address from the Tory MP George Howarth on aspects of government policy on families, and speakers on stepfamilies, one-parent families and grandparents.

With the guilds now cele-brating their 70th anniversary, many members feel that it is important to discuss modern issues to attract younger members. Marjory Hall, 71. the national chairman, said: We have got to move forward in our outlook. Part of that involves keeping up to date with current affairs. We have to be willing to listen and to be toler-ant." Joan Corlett, 68. chairman of the Wirral federation, said: "We lead the way. We were talking about today's is-

sues before any of the politi-

cians. We've got a lot of clout."

warned on safety after spot checks BY MICHAEL HORNSBY AGRICULTURE

Farmers

FARMERS were yesterday told to improve safety standards, after inspectors uncov-ered hundreds of failings in 4,000 spot checks.

The most common lapse was inadequately guarded machinery, in particular unpro-tected drive shafts in which clothing could become entan-gled. In one case last year, a farmworker had to sever his arm with a penknife after it be-

came trapped in machinery. The Health and Safety Execunive's checks on farming and forestry businesses in Eng-land, Scotland and Wales took place in the late summer and early autumn of last year.

David Maney, chief agricul-tural inspector for the executive, said: "There is a glimmer of hope following the blitz exercise. More people are taking an interest in health and safety. but I would like to see this reflected in fewer fatal injuries."

Farm accidents claimed 188 lives in the past two years, making agriculture the most dangerous industry in Britain. There are about 2,300 serious injuries a year reported on farms. The total, including those

unreported, could be 10,000. "Inspectors found defects that needed an enforcement notice in 723 cases," Mr Mattey said. "More than half of these were prohibition notices served to stop immediately a dangerous practice that had a

risk of serious injury. The executive also started a number of prosecutions that involved a total of 22 separate charges. This means that the executive's formal enforcement powers were used on farms at virtually one in five visits inspectors made."

Inspectors are particularly anxious to improve the safety of children. Over the past 12 years 69 have been killed in agricultural accidents.

"Inspectors issued no fewer than 80 notices dealing with child protection relating to slurry lagoons and grain pits."

Mr Mattey said. When confronted with their shortcomings, farmers typically responded that they had not been aware of the danger but thanked the inspectors for pointing it out, Mr Mattey



Twins see what a difference **DNA** makes

BY NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

set themselves the challenge of trying to detect genetic differences between a pair of ap-parently identical twins.

Orlando and Tristram Elmhirst look alike, share the same interests, friends, likes and dislikes, and the same mannerisms. Conveniently, they also both work in foren-sic science. Orlando is a project manager for the Foren-sic Science Service, which is conducting the research, while his brother is director of forensic services with West

Although even their wives have trouble telling them apart, the pair, who were born in Bermuda in 1957, have always believed that they are non-identical twins.

The DNA samples, taken from mouth swabs, should settle the question. If they are identical twins, the DNA profiles should show no differences since identical twins come from one egg that is split in two, and share identical genes. If they are non-identi-cal twins who happen to look the same, there will be clear

Tristram said: "If the DNA does not match, then we are just two individuals who look alike and share the same interests. Is it nature or nurture?

FORENSIC scientists have are now awaiting the results." The study is part of a joint project by the Forensic Science Service and West Mercia police designed to increase the clear-up rate for burglaries by improving understanding and awareness of DNA tests and their part in analysis

of crime scenes. The brothers' collaboration is causing confusion at West Mercia police headquarters. Tristram said: "People who know me at force headquarters think I am very rude by ignoring them, but they don't realise it is my brother, who doesn't know them. It is caus-

ing a lot of confusion."

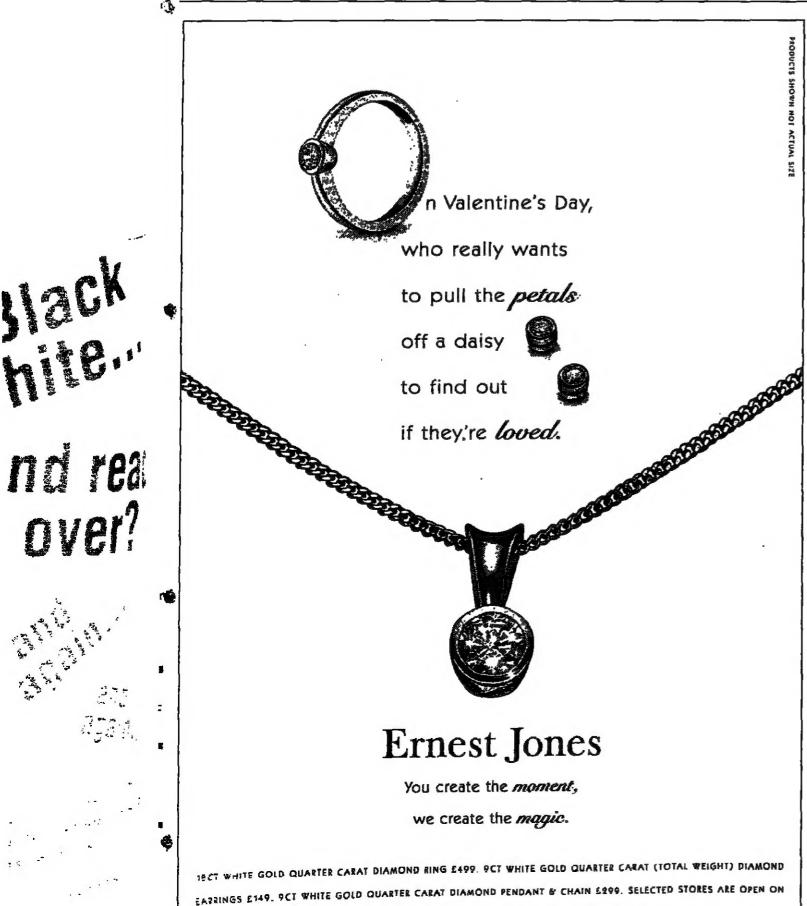
Tristram is a father of two and Oriando has four children, including non-identical twins. The only obvious visible difference between the pair is that Orlando is an inch taller than his 5ft 7in brother.

Both began their careers as cenes of crime officers with the Metropolitan Police and later they worked together as senior officers with Leicestershire police.

"That was fun." Tristram said. "We could easily tell if people were trying to spin us a line or playing one of us off against the other. Because we knew each other so well, we immediately knew if what we were being told about the other one was true."



Seeing double: Tristram, left, and Orlando Elmhirst



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Beckett to give **England** a voice

By Philip Webster

MARGARET BECKETT took the first step yesterday to setting up a Commons committee designed to give England a distinct voice in Parliament after Scottish and Welsh devolution.

The Commons leader asked the Modernisation Select Committee to consider reviving the former Standing Committee on Regional Affairs. It will almost certainly back the

Senior backbenchers believe the committee, which all English MPs would be entitled to attend, would be a way of handling some of the stresses and strains imposed by devolution. Ministers believe that let-ting Scottish and Welsh MPs vote on purely English legislation will look increasingly out of date.

There is growing support among some Con-servative MPs for an English parliament Although the Tory leadership opposes the idea, influential MPs are privately canvassing the idea of cutting the numbers of Scottish. Welsh and Northern Ireland MPs at Westminster and ending their power to vote on English affairs.

New Labour resorts to old tricks in Wales

campaign machine has resorted to Old Labour tricks in a last-ditch attempt to secure the election of Alun Michael, his personal choice, as party lead-

With just a week to go before the count, the leadership contest between the Welsh Sec-retary and Rhodri Morgan, MP for Cardiff West, is emerg-ing as a dirty and closelyfought campaign. Mr Michael's team is facing allegations of fixing votes from trade union and grassroots

ship contest and become First Secretary of the Weish assembly.
Mr Morgan's supporters
claim that the Labour Party machine cannot accept their candidate's overwhelming pop-

members to win the leader-

ularity with the public. The decision on the Welsh Labour leadership will be announced Cardiff on February 20, but Mr Morgan's team claims the party machine is now trying to "stitch up" the proportional representation lists to select 20 candidates for the assembly so that those cho-

sen will back Mr Michael. However, three of the five areas putting forward PR lists Michael by rejecting the rankings. His team has responded by claiming Mr Morgan's side

Campaign turns dirty as Blair's team battles to

get its man elected, writes Valerie Elliott

is also using "dirty tricks". They say Mr Morgan's success in getting Unison's support — he won 7,101 votes against 2,557 for Mr Michael was based on votes from Plaid Cymru and Socialist Worker Party members desperate to inflict "a bloody nose" on Mr Blair's man and embarrass the Government. However, the Transport

and General Workers' Union. led in Wales by George Wright, has plumped for Mr Michael, and the boilermak-ers' union, the GMB, is also expected to back him. But the final count will now be extremely close: Welsh MPs predict the victor will be

decided on a margin of less than 5 per cent of the vote. Some 40 assembly candidates have already been selected for constituency seats, and of those Mr Morgan claims ever, Mr Michael claims he has 26 of the 34 MPs and Mr Morgan four with the rest un-

Anita Gale, chairman of the Welsh Labour Party executive, denies the PR lists are being "stitched up" to bolster Mr Michael, but in typical old La-bour fashion the selection procedure itself is complex and cumbersome. For each seat an inner committee of three members of the Welsh executive, two National Executive members, and two party officials lis-tens to five-minute presentations from any candidate wishing to appear on the list. The of four and it is then put to the vote before 24 members in the Euro-constituency on which it is based. The 24 can approve or reject the list and cannot alter the ranking.
In North Wales and South

West Wales the PR lists were undisputed. But in South Wales Central, South Wales East, and in Mid and West Wales the lists were rejected twice. The matter has to be decided tomorrow by the Welsh Labour executive, which is expected to rubber-stamp the rankings put forward by the inner comminee. This would give Mr Michael 13 votes and Mr Morgan three.



No 10 orders policy freeze

THE impending Scottish, Welsh and local government elections have forced Downing Street to freeze the publication of policy documents for

Ministers have been told that unless they produce Green Papers or White Papers by the end of March they will have to wait till mid-June before they can be published. The moratorium is to avoid accusations of political campaigning in the run-up to the

Documents competing to get in before the deadline include a Green Paper on public health, proposals for funding

long-term care for the elderly, the draft Bill on Freedom of Information, the reorganisation of NHS pay, plans to extend access to the countryside, and proposals to clamp down on benefit fraud.

The long-awaited White Pa-per on the Child Support Agenlooks likely to be delayed. Similarly affected are plans to regulate the private security industry and a draft Bill on par-

ty political funding. Ministers may also decide to hold back more controversial documents such as a

tisation of London Underground and a draft Bill on the sell-off of the air traffic service. By the time MPs return after the Easter recess, the official campaigns for the Scottish parliament, Welsh assembly and local government elec-tions, all on May 6, will be under way. Within a week the

campaign will start for the European elections on June 10. The effective freeze on poli-cy-making will add to increasing grumbles about the lack of government action on policy is-sues. There will also be a ques-

recess, to publish consultation papers for legislation in the Queen's Speech in November. The Cabinet has recently had its first discussion and it is likely that there will be Bills the private security industry. freedom of information, pension reform to introduce the second state pension, the selloff of the air traffic service, the part-privatisation of London Underground, criminal justice, a Food Standards Agency, measures to allow local coun-

Politicians spooked by nationalist apparition

spectre is haunting Britain — the spectre of English nationalism. Merely to paraphrase shows its absurdity. Like the Loch Ness monster, the threat of English nationalism is

more discussed than sighted. Yet politicians of all parties are nervous about the reacand Welsh devolution. After all the plans were devised without any thought to the implications for England. Before the 1997 election

Tony Blair recognised this gap and two separate policies were produced. John Prescott and Richard Caborn devised what have become regional development agencies, centrally appointed and financed.

Jack Straw proposed a stepby-step plan for regional government, starting with regional chambers (linking local councils and business) and then, via regional referendums, to elected assemblies. The Prescott/Caborn plan is up and running and, while there will be no legislation on regional government before the election, there have already been moves in the North East and, tentatively, in the West Midlands to set up

voluntary bodies. However, for the next decade, if not longer, devolution will be asymmetrical. The absence of a clearcut federal structure, as in, say, the USA or Germany, means that Eng-lish and Scottish MPs will be in a different position - the West Lothian question. The Government has tried to brush it aside.

Short of a full federal structure, the question is unanswerable, which does not, of course, mean that answers will not be sought. One is to re-move Scotland's over-representation at Westminster. The next review of constituency boundaries in five or six years will give Scottish seats the same number of voters as English ones, reducing the number of MPs from Scotland from 72 to 57.

The Government has already suggested that a reformed second chamber should be linked to devolved and regional bodies, both in membership and function.

Sawyer's new post

LORD SAWYER of Darlington, Labour's general secretary from 1994-98. has joined the growing band of party officials to take jobs in the private sector. Lord Sawyer, a key figure in the modernisation of the party, is to be a non-executive director of Reed Executive, the recruitment organisation, on a three-year contract to work one day a week for nearly £20,000



Margaret Beckett vesterday offered an English response for the Commons by proposing a mittee on Regional Affairs that last met in 1978. This would consist of all English MPs and would be able to discuss issues such as development agencies, regional economies and transport. Ministers majority in England alone. might also be questioned, but there would be no binding Although the English quesvotes. But the underlying con-

tion of Scottish and English MPs would not be addressed. In face of devolution and Labour's strength in Scotland and Wales, some Tories have advocated an English partiament, partly, in some cases, in the hope that in most years

trast in the constitutional posi-

Such talk alarms many in the leadership who fear that this will hasten the break-up of the Union rather than strengthen it, as the Tories have always urged. Sir Malcolm Rifkind, president of the Scottish Conservatives, and a veteran of devolution battles for 30 years, has instead suggested that when English legislation or policy is being addressed at Westminster, it should be left solely to English MPs. There are tricky problems of definition, and the issue is less pressing while Labour has a big 3 Ment deadly

tion is hardly yet the menace. or big prize, that some Tories pretend, it will not go away. The immediate cause for tension is likely to be money and the resentment of English ministers at the much higher level public spending per head Scotland. No amount of solve that



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Agency's lapses cost old and sick millions

PEOPLE who are too old or sick to manage their own savings are losing millions of pounds because of bad investments made on their behalf by

a government agency.

A report today from the National Audit Office says that the Public Trust Office, which supervises and manages £1.45 billion for thousands of people unable to handle their own affairs, is not managing and investing their finances

properly.

e highly critical report says that the office, an executive agency, is failing in the service it provides to thousands of people, two thirds of whom are over 65 and in private nursing homes or health service beds,

its report finds that where the office itself has responsibility for investing patients' capital. it is failing to obtain a good return. It is also failing properly to scrutinise the use of patients' money where other people have been appointed to look after their finances.

The report comes days after Lord Irvine of Lairg, the Lord Chancellor, announced the first review of the Public Trust Office since it was created as

an agency five years ago. When someone becomes mentally incapable of handling his or her affairs, a relative can apply to the Court of Presection for a receiver to be appointed to look after them.

Public Trust Office comes

under fire over management of

funds, reports Frances Gibb

About 25.000 people are be-lieved to be affected.

The Public Trust Office, which became an executive agency in 1994, oversees these private receivers. It also acts as a receiver itself when no one else is available to do the job. The report says that such is

the low level of scrutiny that there is "insufficient information on the activities of receivers who fail to submit accounts to judge the possible level of undetected abuse". A further failure highlighted today is that in many cases

lar visits to see patients, to ensure their needs are properly and promptly addressed. The report finds that the office is failing to meet its own targets for capital growth over one year in 67 per cent of cases. Over three years, only 47

the office is not making regu-

per cent of portfolios met their blamed that disappointing per-

formance on the exceptional growth in parts of the stock market, which were hard to match in long-term diversified

Today's report says that in 1996-97 more than 40 per cent of private receivers failed to submit an account of how they

had used patients' money. Where accounts are submit-ted the office's performance in reviewing the accounts had deteriorated since 1992-93, when 85 per cent of accounts were reviewed on target. In 1997-98 only 25 per cent had been reviewed within four weeks.

Sir John Bourn, head of the National Audit Office, recommends that the office should be more "vigorous and systematic in oursuing receivers who do not submit accounts and in promptly reviewing accounts

On visits to patients, the audit office report says that where the trust office acts as a receiver its aim is to visit all patients once a year. However 67 per cent of such patients were visited during 1996-97, against 86 per cent in 1992-93, in part because one visitor was on long-term sickness absence.

Although the office has doubled the number of visits since 1994-95 and 1995-96, they are still only 10 per cent more than in 1992-93, when the level was growth targets.

The Public Trust Office of Public Accounts as "unac-



Sour power: this foot-high lemon has been grown in a hotbouse at Lackham Agricultural College, near Chippenham, Wiltshire. The 3lb 12oz fruit will be squeezed on pancakes at a Shrove Tuesday party at the college next week

Homeless blame breaking up for life on the street

BY PETER GLEESON

THE breakdown of a relationship is the most common reason for people becoming homeless, a survey has concluded. The streets offer consolation, however, in the companionship found with others sleeping rough.

Almost 40 per cent of those questioned said they were homeless because of breaking up with their partner, 21 per cent blamed their heavy drinking, 10 per cent said it was drug use, 18 per cent losing their job. 13 per cent money problems and I per cent blamed mental illness.

Nearly a quarter of the women said their parents were the reason for their homelessness. compared with less than 10 per cent of the men. A quarter of the 120 men

and 17 women questioned said the best aspect of living rough was the companionship and freedom. Common dislikes were the cold and damp (00 per cent) and intimidation from the public (34 per cent).

The survey was conducted by NOP for St Mungo's, Lon-don's largest charity for homeless people, which provides 1,200 beds a night

The survey fullows the rerurn home earlier this week of Neil Yates. 37, a Nottinghamshire farmer, who went missing seven months ago. He felt unable to cope with the stress of raising a young family and working 90 hours a week, and vanished after telling his wife that he loved her.

Mr Yates spent several months living in hostels in Kent before police located him

last week and reunited him with his wife and two children. The National Missing Persons Helpline said hundreds of men suddenly left relationships because of inability to cope with financial and work pressures. Living in hostels or on the streets was an alterna-

tive to suicide, the charity said. Charles Fraser, St Mungo's chief executive, said: "The findings are an important guide as to what is needed to get people off the street, it's no use our providing bricks and mortar unless we offer them support and companionship at the same time."

The survey disclosed that about 50 per cent of those questioned chose to live rough because there were no hostel beds available or they could not afford one. The majority of homeless people were men aged 25 to 34 and women aged to to 24, the survey found. The heaviest drinkers among them were men aged over 35.



of work and home stress

Men more deadly when it comes to suicide Whale meat again, my love

BY IAN MURRAY MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

MEN are three times more successful at killing themselves than women because they use more lethal methods of

attempting suicide, a study has found. An equal number of young men and women attempt suicide but the number of young women who die has fallen by II per cent over the past 20 years while the number of men who die by their own hand has increased by 83 per cent. The trend had been as-

sumed to mean that the mental health of young men was deteriorating. But researchers from the social medicine department at Bristol University believe that it could be due to the fact that women's preferred method of suicide. drug overdose, has become less lethal.

David Gunnell, who led the research into suicides by people aged 15 to 34, said: "Men tend to choose methods that are more likely to kill."

in the 1960s overdose and gassing accounted for 75 per cent of female suicides and 50 per cent of male suicides. Today half of female suicides are a resuit of overdose compared with 25 per cent of male suicides. Men are more likely to gas themselves, either by domestic supplies or by car exhaust fumes, with 50 per cent choosing one of these methods. There has been a 339 per cent rise in the number of men hanging themselves, compared with a 191 per cent increase among women. Drowning has decreased by about 30

The replacement of barbiturates as sedatives by the less toxic benzodiaze-

per cent for both sexes.

pines is partly responsible for the 36 per cent fall in female suicide deaths in the 20 years to 1995, although the number of non-fatal overdoses increased.

Increases in hangings and other suicide methods were found to predate the decline in overdose suicides. "This suggests that the social or other problems that underlie recent rises in male suicide rates may also affect women but are not mirrored by increases in suicide rates because the method they fayour has become less lethal," the researchers report in The Lancet.

By HANNAH BETTS

IF YOU want to make your loved one blubber on Valentine's Day, this is the perfect gift for you.

The Hebridean Whale and Dolphin Trust on the Isle of Muli is offering environmentally friendly suitors the chance to adopt a 30ft minke whale and name it after their beloved. Amorous environmentalists can choose from 65 of the 14-tonne love offerings.

each of which cost £100. Recipients will be sent a picture of their namesake and be able to visit as their charges swim off

the Scottish coast in summer. Greenpeace is also angling for a slice of the eco-action. Its Operation Sea Change is offering the chance to sponsor an individual stretch of the Atlantic "whale motorway", which it will defend against oil expioration.

But the Queen of Romance herself. Dame Barbara Cartland, was unimpressed by the concept of an eco-Valentine.

Dame Barbara said she traditionally received jewellery from her admirers and that. given a choice, she would pre-"something pretty to make me look pretty" rather than an aquatic mammal.

The Hebridean Whale and

Dolphin Trust, 01683 302620. Operation Sea Change, 0171

Style, page 20



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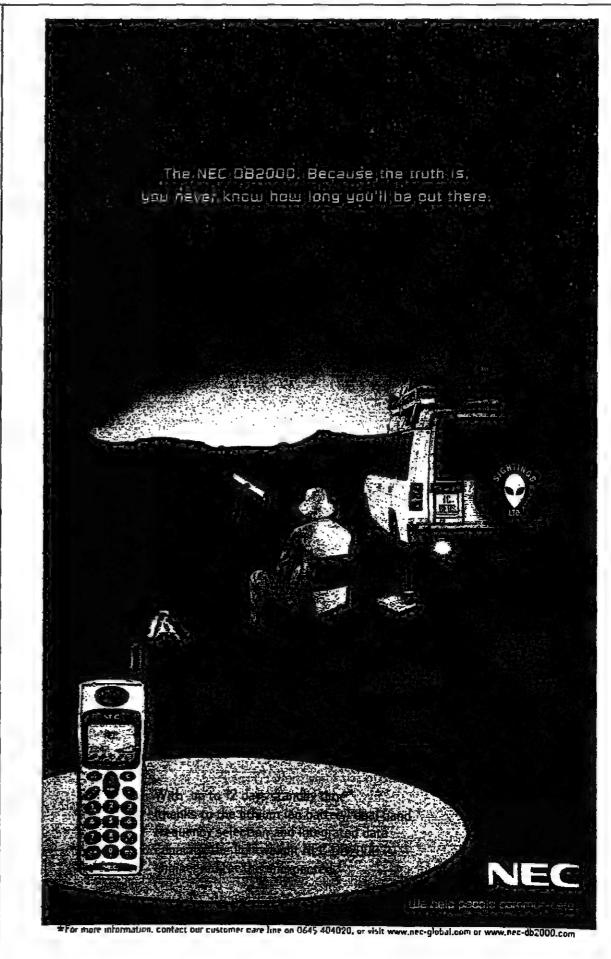
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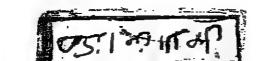
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The Tomorrow in The Saturday Times Harlem's school success story Meet NICKY CLARKE Celebrity snipper Tory leader finds inspiration in one of New York's most deprived areas, reports Michael Gove IN HAMPSTITES.

family income.

selves working out how to come from behind in the polls

charming incumbent. Later in the week his private jet, which his team jokingly refer to as visiting Tories with a curtsy or a posy. In Harlem they're a lit-"Hague Force One", takes him tle less formal. "Peace, love and soul, man, peace, love and soul," whooped 13-year-old Kyllisha Thompson, her hands held aloft in a black power salute to the Leader of the Corporition. William to Texas to discover the secret of "compassionate conservatism" from the state's Governor, George W. Bush Jr. But before meeting the Republican the Opposition. William Hague was discovering that Party's great man he wanted to discover for himself how the intellectual inspiration for some of its big ideas were working. Hague's interest in Harlem had been aroused by a right-wing revival can come in the most unlikely guises. And there are few more unhis policy director Danny Finkelstein who had been imlikely places for the Tories to start their journey back to pow-er than Spanish Harlem. It is one of the most deprived quarpressed by the manner in which the area's schools had changed in a decade. ters of Manhattan, scoring highly in almost every index of In the Eighties Harlem

school kids had to pass social misery, from crime to through metal detectors on their way to class, that's if they But in one area it stands out. bothered to go. One teacher in a school Mr Hague visited re-called pupils only a few years The schools of East Harlem have evolved from Manhattan's worst to among its best. And they have done it by breaking free from bureaucraago having to be relieved of their handguns before lessons. Now parents from Manhatcy. Mr Hague's team has identan's most prosperous districts tified the Blair Government's fight to have their children enitch to centralise as Labour's rolled. In London terms it's as weakest point. And they came though Chelsea mothers were scratching each other's eyes out to send little Jasper to state to Harlem to learn how to kick it. The Tory leader is in America this week to share ideas with US rightwingers, themschool in Harlesden.

The reason for the turnaround, Mr Hague discovered. was wrapped up in a word with which the Tories have



Pupils welcomed William and Ffion Hague warmly, although unsure who they were

had their difficulties - devolution. Teachers and parents had grabbed powers from the New York central board of education to run their schools in their ways. They worked imaginatively within the curriculum and reinvented the whole idea of what a school was.

Schools became going social concerns which occupied what-

ever space they could, rather than institutions tied up in bricks and mortar. The teachers pioneered a scheme whereby several competing schools share one large site, like different stores in one shopping mall. If individual schools fail to attract pupils they can be wound up, and others can take their place, while the building

remains intact as a souped-up warehouse for learning. Yesterday the Tory leader managed to visit four schools in one hour without leaving one building and every one is a success story, whether it is an elementary school or academy of arts. The mixture of local control, flexibility, and an

the inner city. Mr Hague was clearly struck by the Manhattan initiative. Today he will weave praise for its achievements nto a speech to the National

intimate scale can create the at-

The speech also champions his own avowedly small-scale idea, the social entrepreneur. The Tory leader believes the individual set free of regulation can bring a buccaneering spirit of enterprise to delivering better education.

As one of Mr Hague's aides put it: "We realise that it's individuals who provide inspira-tion in education, not the Gov-

Mr Hague may have been impressed by Harlem but was Harlem impressed by Mr Hague? "He's kinda cute." admitted Kyllisha Thompson, "but who is he?" It was a query with which none of her school mates could help.

Mr Hague seemed to bask in the anonymity. When the pupils were told that their visimosphere of a village school in tor was Tony Blair's opponent their reaction was a universal Tony who? Those words coming from the students of the performing arts school were music to Mr Hague's ears.

looks to rebirth of the Right

By PHILIP WEBSTER POLITICAL EDITOR

WILLIAM HAGUE will today call for an "intellectual renaissance" on the Right as be sets out his blueprint for the revival of the Conserve ive

The Tory leader will use a speech in Washington to give his fullest statement yet on how he intends to change his party and turn it into an election-winning force.

Using language more usually associated with new Labour, Mr Hague will say that his party must become "open and inclusive", banishing their image as elitist and interested only in the well-off.

It must become the party of "local initiative and local community" rather than of the centralised state and must win intellectual battles it previously ignored. "While we have been winning public battles about economic issues we have been quietly losing battles about social and values issues."

He wants the Tories to challenge the "chattering classes consensus" that families/'an do without marriage, and -nat tougher jail sentences should be opposed on the grounds that prison does not work.

Mr Hague will also say that to succeed the Tories must be "forward-looking and not nos-talgic". He will tell members of the National Press Club: While the spirit of great leaders of the past, of people like Ronald Reagan and Margaret Thatcher, can inspire us. we will not be able simply to

Dobson tells NHS to cut waiting lists by 20,000

FRANK DOBSON yesterday

told the National Health Service to cut the hospital waiting list by 20,000 within three months. The move will put nurses and doctors under even more

pressure at a time when winter demands are still high, and critics said that the Health Secretary's preoccupation with waiting list targets threatened to undermine patient care.
The waiting list grew by

11.500 to 1,173,598 during December and is certain to have grown further during Janu-Mr Dobson insisted that the

NHS was still on target to deliver the Government's promise to cut the list to below the

May 1997 level. Yesterday's figures show that in the three months to the

NHS treated 132,000 more non-emergency cases and 40,000 more emergency cases than for the same period in 1997. Casualty departments treated 51,000 more people over the same three-month pe-

BY IAN MURRAY, MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

Stephen Thornton, the chief executive of the NHS Confederation, said that staff were already exhausted by the demands of winter, and that the Government "must be realistic about what an already over-stretched NHS can pro-

Peter Hawker, the chairman of the British Medical Association's consultants committee, said: "The time a patient waits for treatment is much more important than the absolute numbers on waiting lists.

end of December last year the Because the Government is obsessed with numbers, the risk is that lists are being manipulated and waiting times shifted back down the line so that patients wait longer for their first hospital appointment."

At the end of December, about 21,000 were waiting to see a consultant in order to join the waiting list. A high proportion of those will be referred for hospital treatment.

The shadow Health Secretary, Ann Widdecombe, said: The Government has been boasting for months that it was reducing waiting lists but now its pledge looks pretty

empty.
"We have constantly said that waiting times are far more important than waring lists and we would like to see specific targets set."





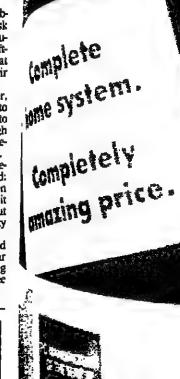
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ess ston and Fabius defends role in Paris blood scandal

FROM ADAM SAGE IN PARIS

LAURENT FABIUS. former French Prime Minister, brushed aside allegations of manslaughter against him yesterday as he sought to distance himself from the scandal over HIV-contaminated blood.

Displaying the poise and intellectual precision that once made him the golden boy of Gallic politics, M Fabius, 52 said he had been kept away from the unfolding Aids tragedy by technocrats concerned at "the cost of each life saved".

In front of the 12 MPS and three magistrates who are his judges, the defendant testified that he let officials take the day-to-day decisions which led to the distribution of blood products tainted by HIV, the Aids-related virus.

The former Prime Minister is accused; along with two former Health Ministers, Edmond Hervé, 55, and Georgina Dufoix, 56, of criminal negligence in delaying the introduction of Aids screening tests for blood products because of commercial reasons.

The two ministers are also accused of failing to halt blood donations in prisons, and of failing to ensure the sterilisation of products known to be contaminated.

Yesterday in Paris, as he became the first French Prime Minister to face a courtroom interrogation for more than 50

years. M Fabius gave a rare show of emotion when his hands trembled briefly at the start of his evidence, but soon recovered his composure.

Among haemophiliaes or patients given transfusions of untreated blood, 4,333 contracted Aids and about 1,000 have died.

The defendant described to the specially constituted Court of Justice of the Republic the role of Prime Minister, concluding that he was more a referee than a player. He had acted as soon as officials had alerted him to the Aids risks, he

His argument was that he stood above the debate in French government circles that resulted in a scheme to delay a pioneering US-made screening test until a rival French version was on the market.

"I was not the leader of the orchestra in some plot," said the man who became France's youngest ever Prime Minister when he was appointed by the late President Mitterrand in 1984. He was asked whether he took responsibility for the decisions of his officials, but dodged the answer and was not pressed.

The court was shown a handwritten memorandum from Louis Schweitzer, then the Prime Minister's private secretary and now chairman of the car maker, Renault. In the note, from 1985, M

Schweitzer denounced plans to spend between Fr200 million (£21.5 million) and Fr400 million on Aids tests for blood conors. "Can you imagine the cost of each life saved in this way?" he scribbled, The Prime Minister did

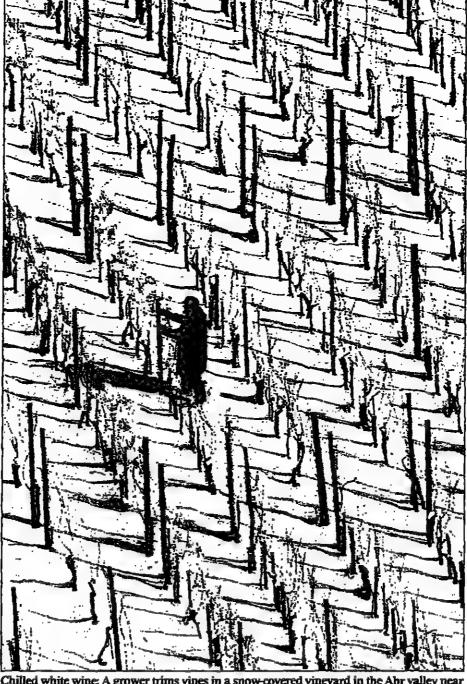
nothing to stop this line of thought, but neither did he do anything to encourage it, the court was told.

Instead, he gave free rein to the highly qualified and highly paid technocrats who dominate the French government apparatus. in a second memorandum

from 1985, another member of M Fabius's private Cabinet, François Gros, said the weight of public opinion had overcome government reticence over the expense of Aids screening tests. But he added that "astute management" of the timetable - in other words, delaying tactics would enable the French firm. Pasteur, to capture a large slice of the market at the expense of American competitors.

"I am in favour," M Fabius Yesterday he claimed he

had simply meant to express approval for automatic Aids screening for donors.



Chilled white wine: A grower trims vines in a snow-covered vineyard in the Ahr valley near Dernau, south of Bonn, yesterday as a cold snap gripped most of northern Europe

WORLD IN BRIEF

Habibie favours free East Timor

Jakarta: Indonesia's President Habibie is in favour of independence for the former Portuguese colony of East Timor and wants a settlement by next January to end the burden on the rest of his country, he said. "If the Government should be asked for a suggestion on East Timor, my suggestion is, just give East Timor independence," he told representatives of the

Indonesian Chamber of Commerce and Industry.
"We do not want to be burdened by the problem of East
Timor as of January 1, 2000." Last month the Government made a surprise announcement that it would propose independence for East Timor, which Indonesia invaded in 1975, if the people rejected an offer of autonomy. (AFP)

Amazon boat deaths

Brasilia: At least three people were killed and 60 to 70 were missing after a boat carrying 150 passengers capsized on a river in the Brazilian Amazon, police said. The accident occurred on the Madeira river, 372 miles from the state capital, Manaus. Unconfirmed reports said passengers watching a televised football match on the upper deck tilted the vessel while cheering a goal and that the vessel was overloaded. (Reuters)

Nazi loot returned

Vicuna: The Austrian Ministry of Culture has ordered state museums to return a multimillion-pound collection of 250 art treasures to the successors of Louis and Clarice Rothschild, 51 years after they were looted by the Nazis and then illegally retained by the postwar Austrian Government (Nigel Glass writes). These are the first objects to be returned under a law

The art of escape

Oslo: Police are hunting Paal Enger, who was serving a six-year prison sentence for stealing The Scream, right, by Edvard Munch. Enger es-caped during an educational trip to Oslo international airport. The painting, a Norwegian national treasure, was stolen in 1994 but recovered undamaged with the aid of Scotland Yard. Enger has recently appeared in a television advertise ment as an "art expert". (AP)



Ranking royal

Madrid: Spain's Crown Prince Felipe, 31, has been freed from the need to sit exams to gain promotion as an officer in the armed services (Giles Tremlett writes). A special law passed by parliament cleared the way for him to rise through the ranks without having to compete with others and the press speculated that the Government might elevate him directly to the rank of general.

Through glass darkly

Jerusalem: Suggesting a possible change in its interrogation methods, the Israeli Shin Bet security service this week covered detainees' eyes only with dark sunglasses rather than the customary urine-drenched hoods, a lawyer said. She said a client told her of the new practice. Israel's Supreme Court has been hearing an appeal against Shin Bet interrogation methods by human rights groups and detainees. (AP)

British Gas

Mountain snow is dynamited to cut avalanche risk

From Susan Bell IN CHAMONIX

THE BODY of a young woman killed in Tuesday's avalanche in the French Alps was found by rescue workers yesterday morning, bring-ing the death toll to II.

A man believed to have shared the same chalet is still missing. A spokesman for the emergency services said there was now no hope of finding

Their deaths make this week's disaster in the villages of Le Tour and avalanche of any kind down this par-Montroc, near Chamonix, France's ticular corridor since 1908. We

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sts by 20.6

PELEMONEING

ORO. EMPLOYEE

worst avalanche since February 10, 1970, when a youth hostel in Val d'Isère was destroyed, killing 39 and injuring 40. Last year nine children and two adults were killed hiking

The speculation that irresponsible property development had contributed to the disaster in which 20 chalets were destroyed was quashed by Pierre Breuil, the senior government representative of Haute Savole.

These houses were all in a white [no risk] zone. There hasn't been an

thought the houses were safe," he said. Jean-Jack Quyeranne, the Dep-uty Interior Minister, who visited the scene on Wednesday, said the chalets had been built in the 1970s. "A 1991 map showing areas of risk established that a priori this region was risk-free." he said.

However, Jean-Claude Gin. of



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MULTIMEDIA

Chamonix Gendarmerie, who led the massive rescue effort, noted that in the Alps there was no such thing as an area of zero risk. "The Chamo nix valley is narrow, with over one hundred classified avalanche corridors. It is impossible to make every-

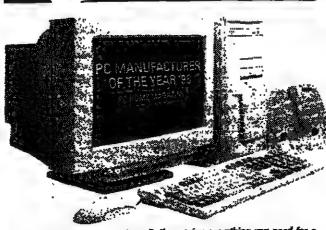
thing safe," he said.

Weather experts reported yester-day that the risk of another serious avalanche was estimated to be four on a five-point scale. Arctic temperatures are slowing the rate at which the layers of snow are consolidating, increasing the threat of another scrious avalanche over the next few days.

Local authorities ordered the use of dynamite to blast snow from the mountains in an attempt to avoid another catastrophe. Seventy homes in the area were evacuated. "In four days we have had record snowfall almost 6ft - in a single valley. Nothing like it has been seen since records began in the 1950s," said Michelle Charlet, Mayor of Chamo-

At 5am yesterday an avalanche hit the hamlet of Les Houches, near Chamonix, flattening three chalets and damaging a hotel. There were no casnalties reported.

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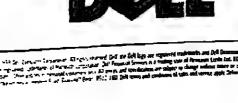
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CLINTON: THE FINAL ACT

President spared by dithering Senate

FROM BRONWEN MADDOX AND IAN BRODIE

PRESIDENT CLINTON is set to be acquitted today of the two of impeachment against him as Republican op-position crumbled, bringing a sudden end to the 386-day Monica Lewinsky scandal which threatened to destroy his presidency.

The White House was a "gloat-free zone", said Mr Clinton's advisers, denying reports that they were bent on revenge in next year's elections.

Joe Lockhart, the presidentiai spokesman, said it would be political folly for the White House to target the seats of the 13 managers of the House of Representatives who mounted the prosecution of Mr Clinton, and who failed in their attempt to remove him from office. But Clinton aides could barely conceal their jubilation and sense of vindication as it might escape without even a Senate motion of censure. Yeslocked behind closed doors for the finale of the drama which has consumed the nation's politics, it appeared that they would muster only a letter reprimanding his behaviour.

As the waters began to close over one of the most extraordinary passages in American history, leaders of both parties said that the country's final verdict on the President's affair with the trainee who brought him pizza would not be apparent until after the 2000 elections.

But the inquiry into Mr Clinton's behaviour initiated by Kenneth Starr, special counsel which has cost more then \$40 million (£25 million), generat-



Kal's view in the Baltimore Sun of President Clinton's survival of the Republican attempts to conjure him away

the nation's television screens, has left both parties fearful about the fallout. Mr Starr's inquiries into the Lewinsky affair alone have cost \$4.4 million. Her legal fees exceed \$2 million, to be paid by her fa-ther, a Beverly Hills cancer specialist. Mr Clinton and his wife Hillary have incurred a staggering personal debt of more than \$8 million in personal legal expenses to rebut

new fund-raising appeal issued by the Clinton Legal Ex-pense Trust. It is far beyond the President's total compensation or his family's net worth, said the trust's founder, David Pryor, a former senator.

On Capitol Hill, however, the House Judiciary Commit-tee spent at least \$1 million pursuing its investigation of the articles of impeachment. The final reckoning is not in for the Senate trial.

It can be argued that sena-

anyway. But their additional Saturday sessions have run up hefty extra bills for staff overtime, security and other costs.

by Republican leaders on two out-of-print editions of a book on impeachment by Chief Jus-tice William Rehnquist. If they had waited two weeks they could have bought

new paperback copies for \$12. The cheapest item to have been accounted for in the scandal is the hat-pin Mr Clinton

One specific waste of taxpay-

ers' money was the \$260 spent

gave Ms Lewinsky. Its value was appraised at \$3. Last night, three Republican

senators from the party's moderate northeastern wing looked set to vote against their colleagues: Arien Specter from Pennsylvania, James Jeffords from Vermont and John Chafee from Rhode Island. But much of the pressure for the Senate to issue some form of formal rebuke came from Democrats who do not want voters to think that they have condoned the Presi-

Independent Counsel also rank as losers.

nal indictments. Democrats are noisily boasting that they are winners. Whether this is really true will be clear only in the 2000 elections. Fund-raising has stayed unexpectedstrong, and they stand a chance of regaining the House of Representatives, lost to Gingrich's Republican revolutionaries in 1994 after 40 years of Democrat-

But some Democrats also though Republicans in the

comebacks is clear winner he true verdict on the Lewinsky saga — and on Bill Clinton's A final verdict

presidency — will come with the elections in 2000. But as the Senate gathered yesterday to set the seal on the saga which has consumed politics for the past 386 days, many of the win-Maddox ners and losers were al-

ready clear, The biggest winner is President Clinton, beyond dispute. True, he has be-come the second President in American history to be impeached. His affair with the young girl who brought him pizza will be his most eye-catching contribution to the history books. But he survived the three clamorous spikes of pressure to quit — in February last year, in August, and in October, setting in stone his

reputation as the Come-The biggest loser? Newt Gingrich. Once, the firebrand from Georgia seemed like Mr Clinton's Republican doppelganger: Southern, charismatic, with a personal life more turbulent than that of his colleagues, but with the drive to reform his party and force his agenda through. Democrats unexpected success in the November elections brought down the guillotine on an already flagging political life. Kenneth

If Congress votes to keep the Office in June — far from a certainty — it is like-ly to curtail its powers sharply. But Mr Starr still carries a hidden sting: as he has warned, he can still pursue Mr Clinton with crimi-

Starr and the Office of the

ic control.

fear that without Mr Clinton's pragmatic centrism, forcing through many bitter compromises, the party will lack unity on the campaign trail. They also fear that while Vice-President Al Gore may appear to voters like a safe pair of hands, the comparison could also highlight his woodenness. So almust await the next elections, says Bronwen

House now appear to be los-ers, having sought to bring down the President and failed, they could draw strength from their setback by 2000. But they need quickly to find something resembling an agenda.

Mr Clinton neatly took

advantage of their intoxication by the saga to punch holes in their policies with the September budget and with the State of the Union address last month. The trickier calculation is whether American government itself will have changed from

the past year. There is a case for saying that the saga boosted the influence of the Cabinet, after years of waning. Mr Clinton would probably not have survived had his Cabi-net not stood by their man. even though he had lied to them about the affair, and allowed them to go on television to repeat that lie.

B ut grandiose judg-ments that the scan-dal has caused lasting damage to public support for the Presidency and for Congress seem overstated. "The national government is not like a hotel room that you can occupy for a night and trash like a rock star," said William Glaston, a professor at the University of Maryland. Pollsters agree that the pub-lic is disitlusioned with government. But some see that mood as a luxury of prosperity, rather than a reaction to Lewinsky. Whatever the cause, as the mid-term elections showed, voters still care intensely about local politics. That trend will strengthen the hand of bigstate governors such as George W. Bush in Texas, the front-runner for the Republican presidential nomi-nation if he chooses to

Politicians might consider it heresy, but one final possible verdict, looking back from 2000, is that the Lewinsky saga will have made little impact on the course of the nation's politics, for all the \$50 million spent and the hours of live television coverage.



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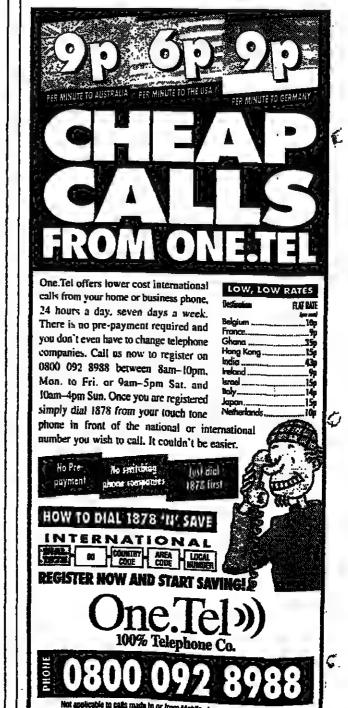
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A star is born as America hails Lewinsky video

SHE was poised, she was frank, she cracked jokes and put her stumbling interrogators in their place with quickwitted ripostes to any misjudged questions. The Full Monica, shown for the first time last week and set to become a television classic, revealed that President Clinton's one-time paramour has the potential to become a star.

For more than a year the world was bewildered by Monwas voluminous, but there had been no chance to study her in person, apart from fleeting glimpses of her hopping in and out of cars. The photographs - particularly the one of her head looking huge and oval beneath a mountain of hair — made her a figure of fun and comics questioned the President's taste. Tabloids. quick to spot that her weight fluctuates wildly, documented her chocolate binges. Tapes of her conversations with Linda Tripp recorded a

whiney, West Coast brat. But suddenly she is popular. The reviews of her videotaped deposition have been raves. There have been reports of diners standing up in restaurants to applaud her. When she came to Washington to give her testimony she was cheered in the street and her hotel lob-by. Her spokesman says that she is looking forward to get-ting on with her life. But that is unlikely to be a secluded existence.

As soon as Kenneth Starr, the independent prosecutor, can be persuaded to give his permission, she will record an interview with ABC's Barbara Walters in which she will be thoroughly debriefed about

President's paramour finds fame and fans,

writes Damian Whitworth

the affair and how she now

feels about the President. This will be followed by another interview for Britain's Channel 4, to be conducted by Jon Snow, for which she will be paid in the region of £400,000. The television executives are hoping that they can get Ms Lewinsky's story be-fore the book she has written with Andrew Morton hits bookshelves next month. The

deal for the book is understood

to be in the region of \$1 million (£615,000) and she will then be

well on the way to covering legal fees believed to exceed \$2 million. In truth, money does not seem to be a big concern for Ms Lewinsky whose stepfa-ther, Peter Strauss, has a large fortune. She has just bought a house in Beverly Hills and zips around in a new Jeep. There even seems to be some joy in her love life; she has a new boyfriend who is a lawyer with a New York independent

film company. It was a baseball cap she wore with his company's logo on it that perhaps best demonstrated exactly what Ms Lewin-sky is worth. When she was seen in it, television stations were inundated with people trying to find out where they could buy it. The former White House trainee could make a



Faces in a crowd: the picture that gave the game away

Reno justifies plan to investigate Starr

Washington: The US Attor-ney-General, Janet Reno, denied yesterday any political motivation in moving towards an investigation of alleged misconduct by Kenneth Starr's prosecutors in the Monica Lewinsky affair.

Mrs Reno also maintained the Justice Department has not been in contact with the White House about its planned investigation - a step long demanded by President Clinton's lawyers and his

congressional supporters. have tried my level best to do this the right way, to ensure there was no effort whatsoever to interfere with his investigation," Mrs Reno said of Mr Starr, whose investigation led to Mr Clinton's im-

peachment trial. "I am convinced that nothing has been done. But I will continue to work to ensure that result," she said. (Reuters)

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her forte, if she does not - or cannot -- return to anonymity, may be television. There are more interviews, of course, And she could tour chat shows for a long time. But it is unlikely she will want to be forever asked about her dalliance in the Oval Office, Perhaps, after

answering so many, she should ask the questions and

become a talk-show host. Elinor Smeal of the Ferninist Majority said: "She will be enough of a celebrity to nail a good job with some entertainment company that wants glitz. I am willing to bet she will not lack for offers. Sure, she had a tough year, but she will do fine. She is a modern woman. She knew what she wanted and, to a degree, she got it. She has a good opinion of herself and it shows."



A Washington demonstrator outside the Capitol yesterday demands a jail sentence for President Clinton. Inside. support for a conviction was ebbing

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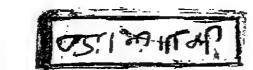
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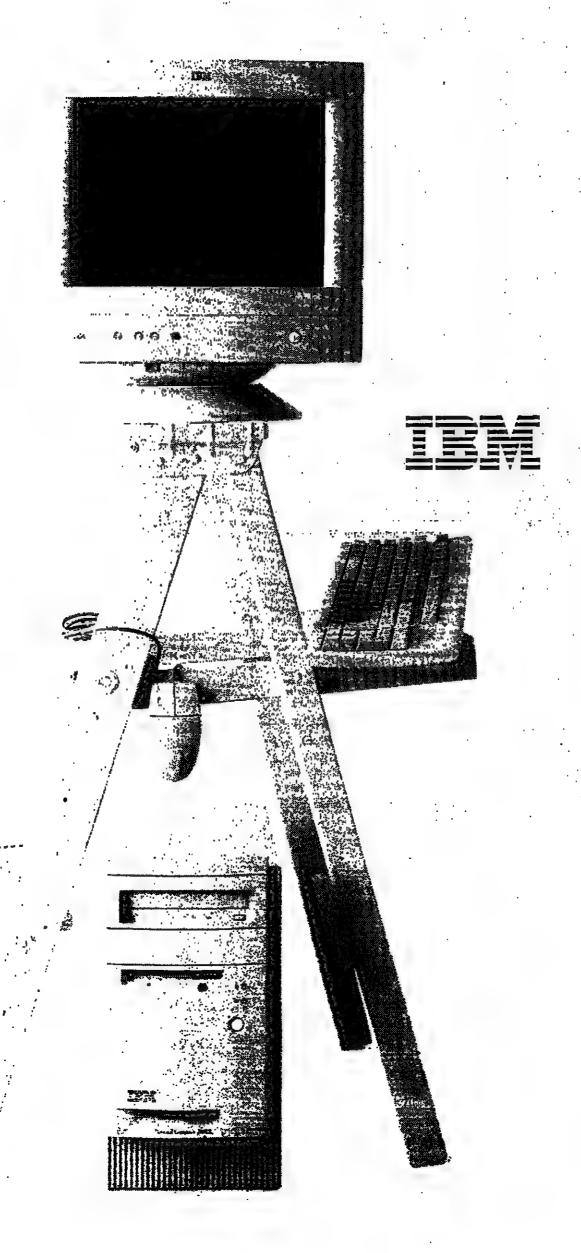
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Princess Royal may review her role after Games bribery scandal

By JOHN GOODBODY AND ALAN HAMILTON

THE Princess Royal issued a veiled threat to review her position as a member of the tainted International Olympic Committee last night.

She is keeping a low profile but is known to be disturbed by the "cash for votes" scandal which will come to a head at a meeting in Lausanne next month. It has already led to the resignations of four IOC members and recommendations to expel five others, and threatens the presidency of



Juan Antonio Samaranch. A spokesman for the Princess Royal said: "The Princess's view is that she has no reason, at present, to abandon her membership of the IOC. She still hopes to do what she can from within the organisation and make herself heard. She feels that she can still play a useful role. She was, after all, an Olympic competitor herself."

The attitude of the Princess Royal contrasts with that of European royalty. Crown Prince Willem-Alexander of The Netherlands has suspended his IOC membership and says he will withdraw if Señor Samaranch fails to clean up the body. The Spanish Government has also advised Crown Prince Felipe that now is not

the time to take up an offer to

join the 115-strong organisa-tion. The Princess Royal, who competed in the equestrian events at the 1976 Games, has always been known for her refusal to accept gifts from bidding cities. She always returns them - without thanks.

She will not attend the IOC meeting in Lausanne on March 17 and 18, when there will be votes on whether to expel the five members who are accused of accepting money or favours when Salt Lake City successfully bid for the 2002 Winter Games. She will be on an official visit to Japan.

New Zealand and the Philippines. However, the outcome of the vote is almost certain to colour the Princess's view of her continued tenure as one of Britain's two IOC members. □ New York: The Olympics largest corporate backers vesterday launched an effort to

change sponsorship arrangements, including the possible incorporation of morals clauses" (James Bone writes). The II official sponsors, in-cluding Cuca-Cola Co. Time Warner, McDonald's Corp and IBM, met as a group for the first time yesterday with

Olympic officials. Representing the IOC at the New York meeting were Michael Payne. the Games' British marketing director, and Richard Pound. the Canadian who is vice-pres-

ident for marketing.
The sponsors, who have each paid an average of £25 million to add their name to the Olympics, are reported to be preparing a list of demands for negotiations over sponsorship contracts that come up for renewal after the Sydney Games in 2000.

scandal. Even though the New York meeting was scheduled a

month ago, the sponsors' readiness to act in unison could

spell trouble for the IOC. So far the major Olympic sponsors have remained committed to the Games, with only one company publicly

breaking ranks. John Hancock Mutual Life Insurance Co., announced this week that it would not spend £12 million to advertise on NBC television's Olympic coverage next year because of the IOC's handling of the

The company also ordered the Olympic rings to be removed from posters at sports arenas in its hometown of Bos-

Sait Lake City's Olympic Committee announced an internal shake-up yesterday that included imposing new conflict-of-interest rules and hiring a new chief, Min Romney. The committee's board of trustees was increased from 33 to 50 and stripped of its decision-making authority by being turned into an advisory body for a new management committee of 20. Three leading committee members also

British protest raises tension over Gibraltar

and Spain escalated sharply yesterday after the Government accused Madrid of breaking European law over its threat to stop accepting Gibral-

tar driving licences.

Ministers promised to "defend with determination" the legitimate rights of Gibraltar as the centuries-old dispute over the territory threatened to erupt again.

In the Commons passions were high as MPs from all sides condemned Madrid for suggesting that it would ban aircraft from Gibraltar flying

over Spain. But there were demands for Britain to go further, with one Labour MP suggesting that a Royal Navy fisheries protection vessel should be sent to the area, and accusations from the Tories that the Government was engaged in a policy of retreat and surrender.

Madrid gave a warning it would adopt a "tougher" stance on Gibraltar, saying that Anglo-Spanish talks on the territory's future had reached a "watershed".

Ramon de Miguel, the junior Foreign Minister, said Spain had maintained an "open and flexible" policy towards Gibraltar since 1996. But, he said, Spain "can no longer tolerate that (the territoMadrid demands

an end to 'illicit activities' on the

Rock, writes

Phil Webster

ry's prosperity is being made parasitically" on the back of the Spanish economy.

Apart from its sovereign claim on Gibraltar, Spain was demanding the immediate end of "illicit and irregular" activities there, Señor de Miguel said, without elaborating.

In London, Conservatives claimed that in their desire to build a close relationship with Spain, the Government had given the impression that it was prepared to soften its line on sovereignty. This was denied by ministers who said that the position remained as it always had been.

The row, which threatened to sour the previously warm relations between London and Madrid, blew up over a dispute about fishing rights in the waters off Gibraltar. Tensions were raised last month when Spain — which has long contested British sovereignty over the Rock — tightened border

police of one of its vessels for

Robin Cook, the Foreign Sec-retary, telephoned Peter Caru-ana, the colony's Chief Minister, yesterday to assure him of Britain's full support, while Downing Street denounced Spain's "unacceptable threat-

ening behaviour". On Wednesday, Peter Tor-ry, the British Ambassador in Madrid, lodged a protest with the Spanish Government after police turned back drivers at the Gibraltar border.

Sir Stephen Wall, Britain's permanent representative in Brussels, was last night writing to Jacques Santer, President of the European Commission, to express the Government's concerns over the Spanish action. The free movement of European Union citizens is a central part of EU law. A spokesman for Abel Mat-

utes, the Spanish Foreign Minister, said that Britain was going back on an agreement settled last October which should have resolved the dispute over fishing rights.

However, Mr Caruana said the row had been manufactured by Spain. "This isn't about fishing. This is about sovereignty," he said.

Leading artcle, page 23



Cars wait to cross from Gibraltar to Spain yesterday after Madrid tightened border controls and said it may not accept Gibraltar driving licences

Patients in the front line as Spanish curbs bite

FROM DOMINIQUE SEARLE IN GIBRALTAR

TWENTY outpatients at St Bernard's Hospital on Gibraltar are the first victims of the uncertainty that Spain's threat to restrict access to and from the Rock has created.

Juan Diego Poyatos, a spe-cialist from Malaga who visits monthly to measure patients for limbs and girdles, was given a warning by Span ish Interior Ministry officials

that if he entered Gibraltar he could face difficulties returning because of the specialist equipment he carries with him. The measuring clinic has been postponed indefinitely. the chief physiotherapist con-

A campaign to bring dialy-

sis equipment to the Rock has been given priority as patients flooded the Gibraltar Chronide with letters demanding that the local government provide facilities on the Rock. They said that they had been distressed by the controls at the frontier and the way in-

spections of ambulances have continued yesterday. A few been carried out as they cross to facilities in neighbouring La Linea. During a protest by fishermen at the frontier a fortnight ago Spanish police authorised protesters to search

the ambulances. The blockade at the frontier

cars took an hour to cross. In normal circumstances the rate is at least six a minute. Fraffic into Gibraltar has dropped by two thirds, the Royal Gibraltar Police confirmed, Madrid has also threatened to ban civil aircraft flying over Spain.

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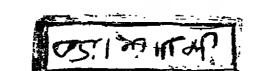


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Kosovo gloom as threat of airstrikes grows

FROM TOM WALKER IN RAMBOUILLET

ROBIN COOK, the Foreign counterpart. Hubert Védrine, returned to the Kosovo peace conference yesterday for the second time in 48 hours, amid speculation that the talks were in danger of collapse.

Despite objections from France and Russia, Nato inter-

vention may now be inevitable. A Nato representative was said to have been involved in the talks for the first time. In Paris, Madeleine Al-bright, the US Secretary of

State, said in an interview broadcast yesterday that a decision had been taken to bomb Serb targets if the talks fail due to Serbian recalcitrance. "If the Serbs are responsible

for the fact that the talks fail, then it will be Serb targets that are hit," she told France 3 television in the interview, conducted on Wednesday. "Our diplomacy is backed by the use of force and that decision, to use force, has been made if

the talks don't progress."

She told ethnic Albanians



The next week promises to make or break the talks, A Contact Group document will be discussed that demands both Albanians and Serbs substantially reduce their fighting units in Kosovo.

The Serbs must withdraw all their Ministry of Interior special police, including the much-feared SAJ anti-terrorist squads. The Serb police presence should be reduced from about 20,000 men to about 2,500, and the Yugoslav Army should scale down its presence to leave no more than 1,500 troops patrolling a five-kilometre (about three miles) zone along the borders with Alba-nia and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

On the Albanian side, the

will be absorbed into a new police force for Kosovo. The Albanians are increasingly wary of the Franco-Russian bid to water down the scale of international intervention, and Mr Thaci has been demanding that Nato should

7.62mm Kalashnikov calibre. The KLA must withdraw to po-

sitions at least one kilometre

from police stations and Yugo-

slav Army bases and move all

its heavy weapons into cantonment sites open to Nato inspec-

tion. Up to 10,000 Nato troops could enter Kosovo by the end

The prospects of either the Serbs or KLA willingly falling into line with such demands

before the expiry of the seven-

day deadline for completing

the talks are slim. In a briefing

yesterday Mr Cook said:

"Most of the agreement will be made in the last 24 hours be-

litical science graduate with

fore the deadline."

of the month.

be a signatory to any deal. The Serbs yesterday countered this by staging a unilateral signing of the ten "principles" under which the conference was convened, which include the inviolability of Yugoslavia's current borders.

Mr Cook responded by regretting that Belgrade was still insisting that both sides



Ethnic Albanians carry the coffins of 40 massacre victims to their hillside graves yesterday. Mourners were told: "Briefly, an evil visited Racak"

Death keeps a welcome on Racak hillside

The leading personality in the Albanian delegation in the château is Hashim Thaci, a po-Marxist leanings. Mr Thaci, 29, who heads the KLA's politi-THERE is little remaining for the people of Racak to lose. A cal directorate, is totally op-posed to the youthful and rap-idly developing force being dis-banded. If the KLA is to disapmonth ago 45 men were slain by Serb security forces. Too frightened to remain in the village, the survivors then lost their homes. Dignity was the pear, the Albanians imagine it next to go: for nearly a month the bereaved had their dead withheld from them as the bullet-riddied corpses were cut up by Serb and Belarus pathologists, and then by a

Finnish team Meanwhile, the Serb and Albanian propaganda ma-chines pulled the truth of what happened to the men one way and then another. One side claimed that the casualties were armed guerrillas, the other that they were unarmed civilians. No provisional report has been released yet by the Belarussians or Flans. It seems likely that their findAnthony Loyd in Racak sees survivors of a deserted village briefly reunited as 40 victims of a massacre are buried

same void as those of similar examinations after massacres in Sarajevo during the Bos-

However, yesterday at last, the remaining 40 dead were laid to rest,

On the previous day they were returned to the mosque in Racak. The small village lies on an alluvial plain between two ridges and is looked down upon by Serb troops to the east and Kosovo Liberation Army guerrillas to the west. Their fears assuaged by the presence of observers from the Organisation of Secu-

rity and Co-operation in Europe, the moment to mourn was the first time the villagers

had returned home. Weeping continued yesterday as men laboured on a nearby biliside to carve graves from the rocky soil beneath the snow. They were directed by an imam with a compass who pointed eastwards over the Serb-held slopes to Mecca. Thousands of Albanians from nearby villages trooped to Racak through black trees and waterlogged fields - a tangible landscape of grief. In the early afternoon

the coffins were borne up the slopes. William Walker, the head of the Kosovo Verification Mission, spoke among the piled graveside earth. In spite of so many unanswered questions about the killings, he remained unrepentant about his earlier criticism of

the Serb forces. Today we stand united against those who committed this crime against humanity." he said, his vitriol dampened by a monotone delivery and repeated pauses for translation. The deaths in Racak demand justice, and justice must be seen to be done. Even in the midst of conflict and war, certain rules of decency and humanity should be observed. By the manner of their treatment before death, by the way they met their deaths, by what befell their mortal remains in

US missile plan fuels

Briefly, an evil visited Racak." A small posse of KLA fighters loitered among the mourners. Like everyone else, they fell silent and stared skywards as a Serb helicopter passed un-seen in the clouds above, the throb of its rotors transformseci Il froi

ing the mood immediately into subjugation. For an army that has won not a single victory, the presence of the media must have been some consolation: if you can win a war by losing it on television, the KLA's fortunes are in the ascendance.

As soon as the graves were filled and Mr Walker left, the mourners collected their abandoned stray livestock, gathered every portable household provision, and fled once more leaving Racak empty and desolate, and the graves alone

London engine firm denies Eritrea sales

By Michael Evans

Robin Cook at Rambouillet yesterday to check on progress

terday to accusations that it had sold engines from Russian TS4 and TS5 tanks to Eritrea, which is currently involved in renewed border fighting with Ethiopia.

A Customs investigation in Belgium has been under way since October last year when the 80 engines were seized in

Antwerp. British Customs is also involved in the inquiry. The seizure has come to Wednesday which called on all countries to impose a voluntary embargo on arms sales to Eritrea and Ethiopia.

JMT Charlesworth, which trades as Global Services, based in south London, admitted yesterday that the engines used in Russian bulldozers were the same as

those that powered TS5 tanks. But its en-gines were to have been used by a road construction company in Eritrea, it said. A BRITISH company reacted angrily yeslight following a resolution passed by the construction company in Eritrea, it said.

United Nations Security Council on A spokeswoman said an export licence to sell the spare parts and four tonne t to Eritrea had been approved.

🛘 Paris: France has sent an anti-aircraft frigate to protect the Red Sea republic of Djibouti in response to the use of modern Russian-made planes by the warring Eritrean and Ethiopian air forces. (Reuters)



The Palio, traditionally run

Siena race gallops into trouble

Rome The future of the world's most ancient horse race, the Palio in Siena, Tuscamy, is at risk after claims of doping and cruelty (Richard Owen writes).

Two horses died in last summer's Palio, a no-holds-barred bareback race staged since the 13th century on the Campo. the medieval square in the heart of Siena. There is fierce rivalry between the contradas. or guilds, who race the horses. The race has drawn foreign visitors, including Tony Blair and the Duchess of York. But the animal rights activists claimed a victory last year when Mr Blair did not go.

CHINA'S deployment of more than 100 ballistic missiles in coastal regions opposite Taiwan is its response to discus-sions in Washington of an American scheme to place parts of Asia, possibly includworld's heaviest concentraing Taiwan, under a US mistions of strategic weapons in a

sources said yesterday. Beijing perceives the Thea-tre Missile Defence scheme as "a threat to the mainland" and an aggressive move meant to contain China.

sile defence umbrella, military

The US proposals, now in the planning stages, appear to have ended the Sino-American honeymoon which began last year when President Clinton visited Beijing after President Jiang Zemin had toured the

US, diplomats said. The dispute is the biggest challenge to Washington's growing strategic links with China since the US sent two aircraft carriers to the region three years ago after China had test-fired missiles close to the island during military exercises in the Taiwan Strait.

Diplomats say the controversy could muddy the waters for the planned first official visit of Zhu Rongji, the Chinese Prime Minister, to the US in the spring.
The huge Chinese build-up

build-up by China From James Pringle in hong kong and Ian Brodie in Washington - the Pentagon, for its part, believes Beijing has stationed up to 200 M9 and M11 medium-range ballistic missiles on its side of the Strait - is believed to be one of the

> single limited region. The new tensions have been exacerbated by the possibility that Taiwan - which the Chinese Communist Government regards as a breakaway province, not an independent nation - could shelter under this anti-missile umbrella being considered by America

and Japan. The idea has alarmed Beijing, which looks on the so-called Theatre Missile Defence as an aggressive move aimed at containing China. Washington said initially the idea was a defence against North Korea's expanding missile programme, but Adminis-tration officials say that China cannot expect the missiles stationed in its southeastern

region to be ignored. A warning against extending the Theatre Missile De-fence to Taiwan was delivered last month by Sha Zukeng. China's outspoken directorgeneral of arms control and disarmament

In an interview with the American publication, De-fence News, he said: "My God, that's really the limit." He con-tinued ominously: "It constitutes a serious infringement of China's sovereignty and territorial integrity. It also repre-sents a deliberate move on the part of the US to provoke the entire Chinese people. Such a move will bring serious conse-

The National Security Council and the State Department are aware of the need to maintain President Clinton's policy of a "strategic dialogue" with China, which includes neither nation targeting its intercontinental ballistic missiles at the other. Pentagon analysis argue that they are taking a more pragmatic view of the region, which its critics see as a pro-Taiwan bias. As a result, a secret Pentagon report on the Chinese build-up has languished.

It was completed before Christmas by Kurt Campbell, Deputy Assistant Defence Secretary for Asian and Pacific affairs, but is awaiting the signature of William Cohen, the Defence Secretary. The delay has been attributed to efforts by the State Department to sof-

THE ITALIAN LAKES & VENICE

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A ll things conspire to make our visit to the Italian Lakes a delight especially for lovers of great scenery, villas, gardens. good food, wine and serenity of lakeside scenes themselves. The dramatic setting of these lakes in the southern Alps is complemented by their different character and unique beauty. It is hardly surprising that the British have long held a special affection for the area and there will be opportunities enough to explore and be rewarded at every

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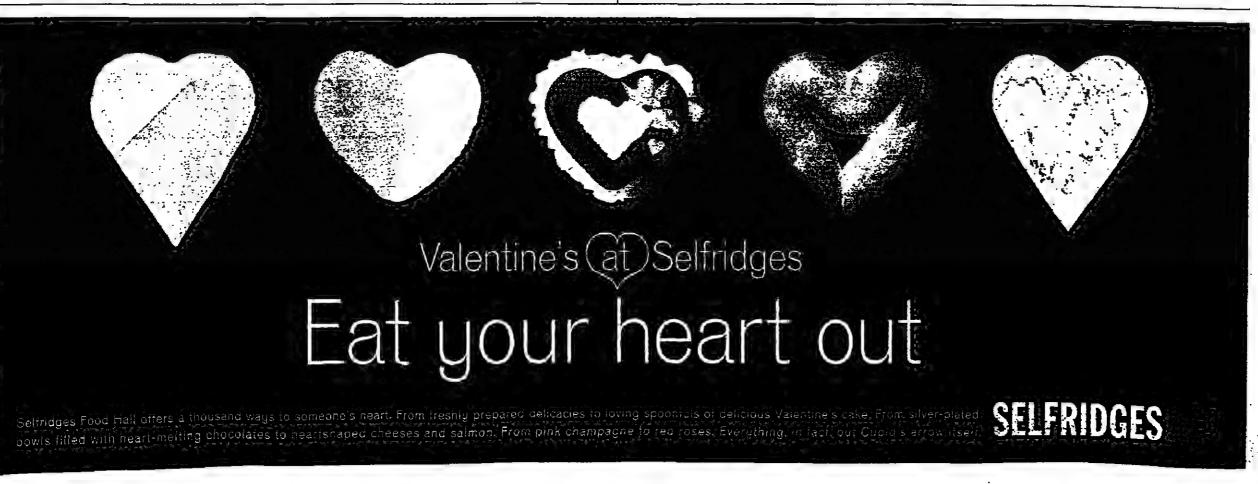
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My secret fall from grace

Joanne Webster set high standards for her children. She is a respected member of her community. But privately she lives in poverty and she shoplifts

My

children

dont

know I

take

charity

t was only because old habits die hard that I caught myself saying the other day "Thanks, God," to the vision of frosty branches against a brilliantly blue sky in Christchurch Meadow. "If you're there, you bastard," I added, "which

you're not," I wondered then when the transition from utter belief to utter disbelief had come about, and could not remember. Only that it had come, along with a lot of other changes I could not exactly date. Well, we all change a bit I sup-pose, as life trundles on, but I had changed completely, it

seemed to me. I had been good once: sweet, industrious, idealistic. loyal. devout. "Your fault." I said to the non-exist-ent God. "You tried me too hard. You should have known I'd fall. You're supposed to know everything." But I didn't care. I was happy in Christchurch Meadow, long free of the de-

mands of that tyrannical God, of the burdens of sin, conscience, duty. Not that I'd tried to rid

myself of the shackles. They'd sort of taken themselves off over the years. Not readily, either. Various tragedies came and went in my early years: the violent death of my brother; my mother's suicide; my young husband's shatteringly sudden death, and I remained the same person clinging on, a bit desperately perhaps, to faith. honour, ideals.

It was in rearing three children alone that the rot began to set in. I had to support them, too, and it was a long climb, especially as I was inclined to be such an idealistic, moralistic mother, forever preaching on about honesty and

My one aim was to see my children . grow up "truly good", as I put it to myfort into bringing them up — as well as into my teaching job — unaided, may I add, by any of the social services, none of which ever showed any interest in these three fatherless children.

My first slip off the pedestal was when the attractive husband of a friend made an impassioned pass. Which I, of course, rebuffed. But this delicious dish came back again and again and I, the

blood afire at last, surrendered. The guilt was grim beyond words, and to dilute it I took another lover. This worked. At the same time I be-

came less preachy about my teenage children's love lives. They shortly went off to college where they all managed to survive, thanks to their thrifty upbringing, without getting into debt, which is the nearest they ever got to angelic perfection.

As for me, I had another love affair. Foolishly sad, I missed my children and 1 couldn't get a job. Any career I might have had had been fragmented by child-care. With dependants' al-lowances all whipped away, financial problems hit hard

I did some supply teaching, char-ring, a stint in a factory packing pickled onions. I fell into depression. I used to wake up crying in the night. It was perhaps during one of those nights that I knew for sure and for ever that there was nobody up there looking out for me. I was admitted into hospital for treatment. I recovered.

I was too old for more lovers, and finally I got old enough for the old-age pension, currently £65 a week. Try living on it. I began selling small antiques (about which I knew nothing) in markets. That is no way to make a living.

But it is fun despite the straitened circumstances. I am. after all, used to them. I used to tell myself that there was satisfaction in making ends meet, had in mind. Certainly I put intense ef- and certainly nobody ever knew of my



everlasting battle to do so. Except perhaps one, an eccentric, wealthy teaching colleague who offered to give me £100,000 because I was "working too bloody hard". I was horrified. Never for one moment did it occur to me in those long-ago. stiff-necked days to

Since then, of course, I've slipped. Making ends meet has become much more of a chore, and ways of doing it become fewer. I occasionally engineer small sums by forcing the privatised utilities to stick by their financial guarantees, a difficult and prolonged busi-ness requiring threats of media publicity, but lucrative, since God knows how often they fail us.

Again, if I pick up money in the street I keep it - see the 30-year-old me doing that. The most I've found in my searches so far is £30.

Moreover, in contrast to that longago shocked refusal of a big handout. I pseudonym

am now in receipt of regular small ones from a charity that exists to help professional people who have fallen on hard times. I don't care, although nobody knows about it, not even my children who, giving to other charities on their own account, still see me as everlastingly capable.

ERENDA PRINCE FORCE

They might also find it hard to see me as a shoplifter, although I am. I quite often shoplift my daily paper from the supermarket. The only reason I don't take a whole lot more is that I don't have the nerve.

Some good, however, has come of my downfall for I now have a far greater understanding of my fellow man, indeed. I can see right into the criminal mind. And sympathise.

Perhaps the Social Services Minister should change places with me.

The author has written under a

Ode from the bard of Westminster

17 17 1

ON THE SIDE

JOE JOSEPH

The minute Tony Blair heard this week that the Poetry Society is planning to appoint a Parliamentary Poet, he called in Alastair Campbell. The resident poet will spend two days a week immortalising the life of the Palace of Westminister, and running workshops for aspiring Wordsworths. But Blair ordered Campbell

to halt the search for a suitable candidate. It's not that Blair begrudged anyone the money — the salary of £5,000 for a six-month stint wouldn't keep a new Labour Cabinet

minister in Lear jets for even a week.

No. what Tony realised straightaway was that here was a chance to speak directly to the nation, without the media mangling his poetic vision of the country he wants Britain to become. The PM has already sent these startzas - part job application, part hom-

How To Get On In Parliamentary Society

age to Sir John Betjeman

- to the Poetry Society:

Phone for the poet, said Tony, As Cook is a little

unnerved. Though the papers all think I should sack him. He's a minister I want to preserve.

If only he'd stay out of He's like Peter, who's weak for a loan, But with Robin it's brandy and women. And also, now, Sierra Leone.

Phoney Tony is what people call me. They think I've two faces,

Which shows just how little they know me, Because actually I've always had three.

Let's get rid of all PM's Questions. I want all the nation agog, From now on I'll address them directly, As a guest on the JY Prog.

I must talk to people in person, That's Alastair Campbell's advice, Avoid all the riff-raff on Fleet Street. My own show on telly'd be nice.

And Gordon must stop being downbeat. The economy will soon be all go, If the public keeps nagging for forecasts, Just smile and say, "I dunno".

Can't he see all the signs of recovery? GNP bouncing back in a flash? In the meantime, to cover the deficit. Geoffrey Robinson can lend us the cash.

Education, education, education.

But can somebody please check my spelling. Before this first poem goes out?

If Frank Field calls, tell him I'm busy. Or say that I'm just not at home. That we've kept to new Labour's promise. By giving him full Right To Roam.

l must contact Benson & Hedges. To explain their royal warrant is dead, While at the same time inquiring discreetly. If they'd like to use MY Arms instead.

But getting on isn't a doddle. The burdens of politics are harsh. Witness poor Alistair Darling.
We made him shave off

his moustache.

Now, Conservative critics cause trouble. So we show them that new Labour's fun. By seducing them over to our side, With a pointless Commission to run

Their Lordships will soon be a memory. Though you won't find me mourning the loss. It's high time we championed democracy, And accepted there's only one boss (me!).

Livingstone? For mayor? Are you crazy? There's something not right in his head. The minute he gets back to power. He's certain to paint the town red.

Paddy Ashdown is also departing.
To Brussels? The UN?

Or maybe he's retiring to Yeovil. But, frankly, does anyone care?

We'd better decide on the euro. Me? I'm for going straight in. Then at least if it proves to be rubbish,

We'll all be in the same bin. Those focus groups — what are they saying? We have to respond to their views,

Than crime rates, or NHS queues. Now there MUST be a job for poor Mandy. It's HIS work that got us so far. Unless all the polls just say "Dump him!"

New Labour must heed them more seriously

In which case, dear Peter, ta ta. The same, I'm afraid, goes for Hoddle. Who'll be reborn as something much worse. As a monkey, or beetle, or fruit fly.

Or a scribbler of new Labour verse.

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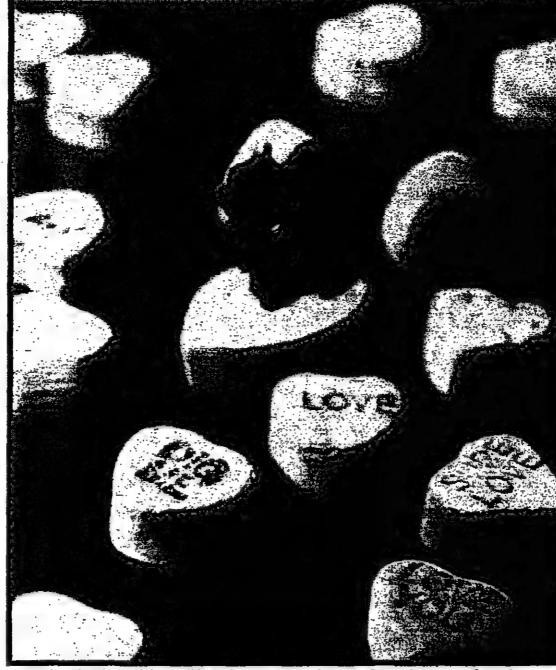
know what I am getting for Valentine's Day. Breakfast in bed, a card and a bunch of flowers. And i also happen to know that breakfast will consist of a chocolate mini-roll, an assortment of jelly babies and a mug of strong Ribena, that the card will feature Minnie the Minx, leering horridly beneath the legend "Wahey! It's Valentine's Day", and that the flowers will be a muddy bunch of Iris reticulats, picked from the patch by the front door.

How do I know this? Because I happened to be sweeping under my son's bed when I accidentally dislodged a box marked "Secret Plans" which, having the soul of Slipper of the Yard, I opened. By the time Alexander is old enough to have the sort of secret plans I'd rather not know about, I expect he will have found a better place to stash them. In the meantime, at least I know that I'm definitely getting something for Valentine's Day, and that I'll be pleased when it arrives. Which is more than you can say for a lot of poor girls.

It strikes me that the urgent way in which retailers encourage us to spend lots of money on gratuitous objects to give each other on Valentine's Day does a good deal to foster the misunderstanding that already exists be-tween men and women on the subject of presents. The Christmas trees were hardly down before the pink hearts began to appear in the windows, accompanied by an atmosphere rather like the one I imagine must hang over a household where the marriage is shaky and the wedding anniversa-

Bothered-looking chaps, clearly aware that something grand is expected of them but certain that whatever gesture they make is bound to be wrong, escorting pinch-lipped girls, bracing themselves for the arrival of a sad bunch of scentless hothouse rosebuds, or a large bottle of the scent they wore on their first date (the fact that she now wears nothing but CK One does not impinge upon the eager young man in love. He is ever so pleased with himself for finding such a big bottle of Charliel It was the last one, right at the very back of the

topmost shelf.) Burying the problem in money will not necessarily make it go away, as one poor fellow was in the process of discovering when I looked into Janet Reger's shop in Beauchamp Place. "Er ... what other colours does this come in? he was saying hopelessly. staring like a mouse in the grip of a python at a frothing mound of frilly underthings in every shade of the



Courting Cupid: it is possible to charm your way into your lover's heart on a shoestring

spectrum. Janet Reger's lace-encrust-ed satin lingerie in an arresting shade of purplish-crimson is, apparently, very popular with gentlemen

for Valentine's presents.
For myself, I think I might prefer some of the more delicate colour combinations. An exquisite slip in almond blossom pink satin with insets of moss green lace, also in ivory with midnight blue lace or lilac with black. is £295; a matching short robe is

If you want to make a grand gesture, there is plenty of scope at Theo Fennell (0171-591 5000), whose gold key pendants with jewelled shanks start at £240. At Nigel Milne, a selec-tion of pretty Victorian lockets starts

at around £500, or there is his own heart-shaped pendant, a model of re-straint in white gold and brilliants for £330. At Ilias Lalaounis (0171-235 9253) gold Capid pendants begin at £470, or there is a wide silver ring with a gold heart, pave-set with rubies for £235.

ut, despite Dorothy Parker's plaintive line about dating men who send one perstand a girl's need for one perfect limousine, it is possible to charm your way into your lover's heart on a shoestring. If she is a cook, try her with a set of Divertimenti's white porcelain coeur à la crême moulds, £4.95 each

for small ones, £23.70 for large. The Conran Shop has garlands of heart-shaped dried peppers with fragrant bunches of dried herbs, £4.95; a blood-red cook's apron. £17.95; or five litres of Cartuccio's extra virgin olive oil in a glass flask with a little gold tap, £79. I strongly advise against cud-dly toys, but if you really must, Con-ran has a curly-coated bear in a blue

fisherman's sweater with a heart on the front, £16.95. nubuck, embossed with "L'amour, Love, La Joie de Vivre" and so on from £45. A stick of rose-pink sealing wax is £1.25. Wrap it up with Smyth-son's red leather correspondence en-



on Valentine's dress, spray on a little 1010 Body Oil Mist. It adds a light fragrance and a silky sheen to skin, and after dinner it can double as massage oil. £3.50 from Boots at wide (0845) 0708090)

Objects of

including both fils and coral lace bra. £1:14, and Gestring worn under a small tace carriskint. £179, should do the trick. From Sculpture 23 Brook Street, W1 (0171-491-0503)

John Rochs has created a sleek and understated rang or Waterford Crystal. These was their reflect the light £50 a pair at John Rocha, 60F Sloane Avenue, SWI.

but the

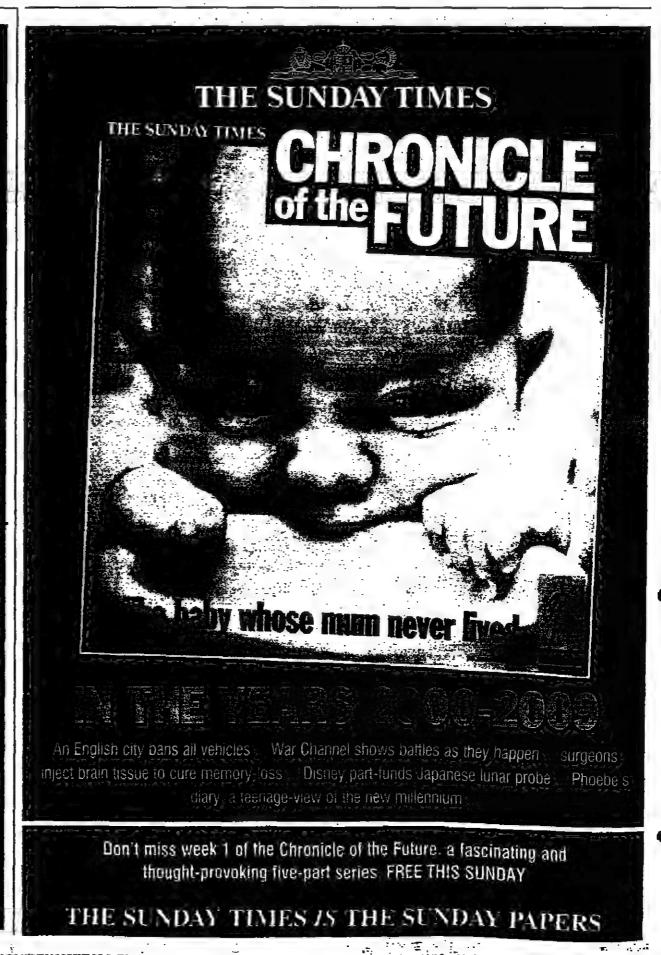
nil some nik

velope, with creamy cards embossed with a red heart, £95.

Prom Agnès B's red leather-cased, heart-shaped handbag mirror, £11, to Titiany's silver charm bracelet with a heart clasp, £85; from heart-shaped silk lavender bags at The Cross. £8.15, to organza ones at Floris, from £7.95, there are many ways to show your sweetheart you love her without getting arrested by the style police.

But take care. If you get it wrong, find yourself looking at a smart new doormai from Jerry's Home Store, £16.95. In elegant capitals, impeccably framed in a handsome navy bor-der, it says, in letters of coir: "GO AWAY."





Rob and Ewan both want a wife





but there aren't enough women to go round. So the question is: will some nice girls go to a place like Uist? Anne Barrowclough finds out

ing morosely into his empty beer idea of Valentine's Day. "It's going to be miserable." he says at last "Really sad, actually."

Robert doesn't have a girlfriend. Never has had one, and can't see any prospect of getting one. Not that Robert is socially inept, or unattractive. in fact, he's young, good-look-ing and trendy in his Tommy Hilfiger sweatshirt and jeans and, what's more, is the island's DJ with his own disco. Dance Krazee - a job that not only gets him the latest album releases but should ensure him a constant supply of impressionable young girls.

That's just the problem. Because on North Uist, in the Outer Hebrides, there aren't many young, impressionable girls. In fact, there aren't many girls at all. So on Valentine's Day there will be no romance and roses and Robert already knows that the disco he will be running that evening is going to be a big dis-

appointment.
"It will be full of men, almost no women. No one will dance: they'll all just stand around drinking till 12 o'clock. when we have to close up.

know everyone there, all the men, and the few girls who'll show up. It'll be like having a party with my family, that's how sad it is. It's like that every Saturday night and it won't

it's Valentine's Day." North Uist has a serious woman problem. The number of fe-'We all males has been declining steadily for

a decade and is still drink. If falling. Many of the island's young people go to the mainland for highonly we er education and, had wives while the men often return to the traditional island jobs to keep us of crofting and fishprefer to

Unemployment is a problem throughout the Western Isles, running at about 8.3 per cent - almost 3 per cent higher than the average for Scotland. On North Ust the

women

stay on the main-

land, where jobs

jobs shortage affects the 1.386 women even more than the 2,064 men.

But now the island is to re-

half from the EU and half from a group of Scottish organisations - to help it to attract more women to its bleak shores and to encourage those still there to remain.

As a single, thirtysomething metropolitan woman I anı, nat-

urally, interested to see if North Uist has any charms to attract me or my single girlfriends. I am sorely disappointed. The landscape is stunning but the prospects are dismal. For jobs, we could choose either ressing, or working in the Spar supermarket. For nightcould choose from seven most of

are hotel are more plentiful and life is bars - or there is always Robert's disco on Friday and Saturday nights. For essential retail therapy, there's just one shop, the Island Craft Shop. Admittedly, you can get some interesting knitwear, but Jigsaw it

> As for urbane males, put it this way. A drinker in one of the pubs I visit in my search for (a) nightlife and (b) eligible

men, asks me what the initials RL on my shirt cuff stand for. When I tell him Ralph Lauren. he asks: "Is that your boyfriend, then?"

A working knowledge of designer labels is not, of course, a necessity and the men of North Uist have other traits which their city counterparts would do well to emulate: they have a modesty and sweetness which, combined with their unaffected masculinity, is very appealing. But they feel trapped on an island where too often the easiest escape route is via the bottle.

Down at the harbour, bachelor boys Murdo McArthur, 26, and Ewan MacKinnon, 52, are standing unflinching in a snowstorm, and regard me with some curiosity, mixed with fear. Murdo at first shies away like a frightened lamb but he's finally enticed back for a chat.

This young fisherman, who still lives with his parents on their croft, and whose sisters have escaped to the mainland, admits despairingly: "I just can't get a girlfriend. I do my best. I go to the disco every Saturday because that's the only mating market on the island. But there's never many girls there. Just men. What woman would want to marry me, anyway? I'd be out fishing all day and there's nothing here for a woman to do. Except knit."

Ewan is more philosophical, although there's a poignancy about his acceptance of his permanent bachelor state. "There used to be lots of women here when I was young but I let many a good one slip away. One day I woke up and I was on the wrong side of 50 and there was no one left. I can't even hope for a divorcée because once people find a wife they tend to hang on to her."

o just what do the men do for fun? "Uh, go to the pub," says Murdo, shifting his head to do. Drink. We all do that. If we had wives, they'd keep us safe at home. Drunkenness is a big problem here."

The grant to be received by North Uist is to be spent on creating jobs that are attractive to women, as well as improving facilities on the island to upgrade the lifestyle of all its young people.
Catrina MacCuish, who

speaks for the organisation responsible for distributing the money, speaks highly of is-land life. "There's lots to do," she says and adds enticingly: There are lots of clubs." Oh goody, think I, wishing I'd brought my little black number, until she adds: There's the sub-aqua club. the canoeing club and evening

Catrina's plans to attract women include resuscitating traditional industries such as seaweed harvesting. But the bachelorsaren't optimistic that kelp collecting will do much to keep women here and, speak-ing personally, I'd say they

have a good point. As 19-year-old Fiona Henderson points out: "When people come back after a couple of years at university they realise there's nothing for them here. You can't blame them for leavpermanently. All my friends have gone - they all live in Glasgow now. There's only my friend Shona left and we go to Glasgow whenever we can to shop and go to parties. We'd go mad, otherwise."

Back in the bar of the Dark Island Hotel, DJ Robert Currie, whose day job is fish farming, is expounding on what should be done to improve island life. Like many of the young people still on North Uist, he cares deeply about his homeland. Although he is desperate to spread his wings elsewhere and his pals Shona and Fiona need constant R&R in Glasgow to retain their sanity. they at least are trying to do something to invigorate life here. But they feel frustrated by the older people, and by the

which rule island life. "The churches have a lot of own all the halls, so if I try to have a disco in any of them I

iona Henderson, who works as a lifeguard at the local pool, agrees. "I despair, sometimes. There's so much that could be done here but nobody seems interested. There's no enthusiasm to get things moving. That's why so many of my girlfriends leave. Every-

have to close by 11pm. It hard-

ly makes people want to come

out ... I usually get about 50."

thing is just going to waste." Fiona, dark and pretty, with her glossy hair cut in the latest style in Glasgow, wants to go to university on the mainland but, after growing up on the island, she isn't sure how to get

The trouble is that I don't want to go out with any of the lads here because we know each other so well. You couldn't feel romantic about any of them," she confesses, giggling. "But I'd be nervous about going away and meeting a man somewhere else because I wouldn't know how to talk to him."

In the glaringly sober light of day, I decide to visit Colin Campbell, 64, who told The Times last week of his rugged life in his remote farmhouse, and who said: "Only a brave girl would come here." Deciding to be that brave girl, I flounder across a peat bog to his front door, only to find he's gone out. On the way back yet

another sudden snowstorm catches me and, as I stand shivering, shin-deep in mud and snow. I decide "foolhardy" would be a better word to describe Colin's ideal girl.

Colin had said that like most of the bachelors here, he feels a sense of loss at never having married and, later in the day when I speak to him by phone, he is wondering. with some anxiety, if women might start coming to the island, attracted by the large number of single men. Already he has been approached by a hopeful wife. "There is a woman who has started writing to me." he says, chuckling nervously. "She signs herself Anne Amorous."

There is hope yet for the bachelors of North Uist.

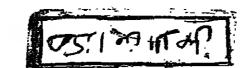


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Try Enfield, Mr Hague, not Texas

Tories should follow Portillo's

progress, says Tim Hames

I here has been a lot of talk of late about "panic' in the ranks of the Conservative Party. The Tories have now spent more than six years with less than 30 per cent support in the opinion polls. They have few members, little money and no sense of mission, William Hague has decided to travel to Texas today to see if Governor George W. Bush can offer any

The term "panic", though, is rather inappropriate. It does not begin to describe the situation. Phrases such as "sheer fear", and "total terror" would be much more accurate. The only difference be-tween now and May 1997 is that the number of people living in fear of a Blair victory has diminished. There seems little reason to bet against another Labour landslide.

In all of this the Tory party remains its own worst enemy. It still insists on believing that the last Government was basically a respectable affair, led by a decent man, that was brought down by splits, sleaze and spin-doctors. There are intelligent members of the Shadow Cabinet who believe that John Major was "unlucky" and that after 18 years a heavy defeat was "inevitable". They have no conception of the loathing with which the country held and still

holds them. That public hos-A vicar tility is wholly ap-propriate. The last society is Tory administration was an utterly no better miserable experience. It was, when than a one considers the circumstances and nanny despite stiff competition from Edward easily the least attractive Govern-

ment of this century. Mr Major's main achievement has been to rehabilitate the historical reputations of Arthur Balfour and Neville Chamberlain. Hell, I think this too and I still voted to re-elect the scoundrels. Those who did not demand even more furiously that the Tories openly recognise their failings.

To this national sentiment, Mr Hague and his circle reply that that they have said "sorry" several times already. However, a half-mumbled acknowledgement that policies on rate-capping may have misfired, inevitably buried deep in the inside pages of the broadsheets, does not strike most voters as much of a mea culpa. What the country wants is for the Conservative leadership to throw itself at the feet of single mothers, small businessmen, homeowners, sexual and ethnic minorities, even Eurosceptic scribblers, sob their soul out, beg for mercy and really mean it. Bill Clinton not George W. Bush is the American whom Mr Hague should be asking for tips on performance, if not sincerity,

The scale of the Conservative problem on cultural attitudes and lifestyle issues today which Labour suffered on economics throughout the 1980s. In fact, it is worse. For it is at least possible to imagine a capitalist crash on a scale that might drive sentiment back towards more state intervention and regulation. There is no way on earth, by contrast,

volunteer to return to the kitchen, homosexuals accept being bundled back into the closet or blacks form a quiet queue to take their place on slave ships. The Conservatives

are on the wrong side of history on all these issues. Their attitudes do not only alienate the sections concerned (although they alone constitute one third of the electorate), they also put the Tories out of place with a vast new middle class, affluent and sceptical of state planning, but liberated and liberalised by access to higher education. There is no future for a party that does not know the voters. At the outset of his leader ship it appeared that Mr Hague understood this and was willing to act on it. After Michael Portillo paved the way with his magnificent break with the past at the 1997 party conference, Mr Hague took the chance to emphasise his own support for tolerance and diversity. For one brief shining moment it seemed as if the party of hanging and flogging might be trans-formed into one of shagging and snogging. At last, the Tory hierarchy seemed willing to

sue for peace with the 1960s. Alas Mr Hague spent last year hedging and retreating. Under attack from the rope, race and repression regiment, the Tory leader in-

stead chose to sue for peace with the moral mullahs of the Daily Mail and the Taleban tendency at The Daily Telegraph. The familiar sirens of social authoritarianism are sadly once again emerging from Conservative Central Office under the camouflage of "neo-conserva-

tism". Tolerance is merely to be tolerated in a limited form but real social pluralism is not

s a result Mr Hague has forfeited his right L L fully to attack new Labour on the territory where it is most vulnerable — individual freedom. The Tory leader used the Hoddle saga last week to accuse Tony Blair of poking his nose into people's lives". Barely 24 hours later he spoke of his intention to tinker with the tax and benefit system so as to rig it in favour of marriage rather than cohabitation. The Conservative alternative to the "nanny state" is then, it seems, to be the "vicar

There is but one Conserva-

tive of any rank who seems to understand the distance that the party must move to render itself relevant. The rehabilita tion and renewal of Mr Portillo stands as a compelling reminder of the condition that the Conservative Party could be in now if Mr Hague had seen off his critics and adopted repentance and revival. It may already be too late in this Parliament to reverse course: if so the Conservatives are heading for another electoral catastrophe. If Mr Hague wants to avoid that fate, he could save time and effort by consulting the phoenix of Enfield Southgate rather than the Crown Prince of Texas.

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Mary Ann Sieghart is away.



America on the ropes

Mark Twain, do solemnly swear that I've been to Washington and seen more rapscallions than there are mules in Mississippi. That Congress has so little to do it has impeached the President for slap and tickle, which as Huck says, is mostly tickle 'cause nobody heard the lady holler.

"How they impeached! They impeached mornin, noon and night, like Baptists on moonshine. They dragged in the girl so folks could see the smokin' guri. That was a mistake, 'cause after that folks began seeing things the President's stretched, Huck says with a wink, but mostly the truth got out. So off he goes like a jumping frog. There ain't nothing the American people likes more, I reckon, than to feel morally superior to a President. But when we take the trap back to the station, the trapman gazes at his horse's tail and says, "There ain't no guide to the American joke."

Has the impeachment of President Clinton, scheduled to end today, been an American joke? Have we missed the plot? Green with envy at Britain's diet of high-class sex scandals, did Washington stage one of its own? A presidential honey trap was set. A lie was extracted, a perjury proved, a Congress enraged, a President contrite, a sin attoned . . . and a nation again at peace. It was the sort of stunt that Campbell, Mandelson & Co would have pulled, to get the office over a media luil between Thanksgiving and Superbowl. It was a bit tacky, but nobody ever lost votes for tack. So for God's sake everyone, stop looking so serious.

I like the idea, but having watched hours of the impeachment trial on television I am not sure. It has been a strangely compelling event, and not just for its salacious content. This was the American Constitution rolled out on parade with all the ponderous overkill of a ballistic missile in Red Square. Grim-faced legislators watched it rumble by. It may not terrify the enemy, but it certainly terrified them. Impeachment has been public and painful, but it has been the Constitution. Regiments of lawyers have marched by at vast expense. But this is the Constitution. Once invoked it has a life, and a cost, of its

The impeachment of Bill Clinton

Clinton's trial was painful, but it has

toned up the muscles of democracy

time. The case did not merit the attention of a Dogberry. A village magistrate would have slung it out as vexatious. He would have told the prosecutor to shut up and entrusted the defendant to the mercies of his wife. "I never had sex with that woman," was a lie that could have been mouthed by half of Mr Clinton's precessors. It would not have been believed, but nor privacies, even the indiscretions, of those in high places once enjoyed

respect. So did lies about their indiscretions. As Huck Finn implied, mainly tell the truth and there is no harm in "some stretchers". In Mr Clinton's case, the devil was in the stretchers.

Most Europeans, from my observation, have been appalled at the antics in Washington this past three months. The impeachment of President Clinton has consumed the world's only superstate. It has done so at a time when the

stock markets of the world, and when American troops are racing round its troublespots. The effect on Mr Clinton was plainly to induce a dubious adventurism in Iraq. Sudan and Yugoslavia. A cool head and a steady hand are prerequisites for a world champion. Yet the American President was enmeshed in a squalid scandal from which he seemed incapable of escape. Suppose the world faced a real

Americans not of the Clinton persuasion reply to this with vigour. To them, the world is doing just fine but Mr Clinton is a nasty piece of work. His Washington is corrupt. His personal life is ludicrous and leaves him open to blackmail. His White House is chaotic, which is why nobody works there for long. Yes he is popular, but so is any

and peace abroad. He has a case to answer. His campaigns have left trails of suspect dealings. He lied to his colleagues and to a Grand Jury. He cannot even face the press. Mr Clinton may defy accountability but

he cannot be above the law. These critics point out that the British have more subtle but no less ruthless ways of holding their chief executive to account. They have the disciplines of the club. If a man gets into Mr Clinton's sort of mess and it goes public, he must either tell a convincing lie or his

> and tell him to go. If he is all right by the dub he is all right. if not he resigns. The system is effective. When Margaret Thatcher had to go, her own Cabinet lined up to drive in the knife, like the cast of Murder on the Orient Express. In Britain, "irresistible pressure" would soon have forced Mr Clinton's resignation over Monica Lewinsky.

In Britain, separa-

tion of powers is

colleagues visit him

within the club. American economy
America's separais the one engine roaring behind the tion is formal and external. Its democracy is that of the people, constrained by the law. To his congressional critics, the cause of Mr Clinton's discomfiture may have been trivial, but the outcome was not. He did something every American child is told never to do. He lied under oath to a Grand Jury. He attempted to influence witnesses before a trial. If these trimes are intolerable in a citizen, how much more so in Citizen Number One? There can be no defence of

> Mr Clinton was duly impeached but found not guilty. He appealed over the head of the Constitution to the people and the people exercised their sovereignty and gave the thumbs-up. They held a de facto plebiscite — a running opinion poll — and that was the end of the matter. The sin was too trivial to justify dismissal. Americans do not

expect their leaders to be gods, even if they pretend to be such. A politician may hold himself up as a role model, the embodiment of personal and family virtue. The public has no time for such pomposity. Do what you are paid to do, it cries. Screw up as a saint and we will call you a schmuck. Screw up

on the job, and you go. In his essay on The Disuniting of America, the historian Arthur Schlesinger, points to the United States' capacity to pull itself back from the brink. It constantly manages to salvage unity from a chaos of "self-criticism, protest, disrespect and irreverence". Its politics seems forever testing itself to destruction, over McCarthyism, racialism, the presidency, censorship, even nuclear war. It drives the world to the edge of the cliff. Then it cries, "It's all right everyone, relax." And each time, American democracy emerges

erhaps that is the same

a little stronger.

game of trial and error we have just witnessed. What in Britain would be a political row, in America is elevated by the separation of powers into a constitutional one. Scarcely any political question arises in the United States," wrote de Toc-queville, "that is not resolved, sooner or later, into a judicial question." To him the language of the law became "the vulgar tongue". Impeachment is a classic instance. It is political. It was wheeled out against Richard Nixon, but not against Ronald Reagan over Irangate, far more serious infringement of presidential power than covering up a Monica Lewinsky kiss. What might have been no more than a congressional inquiry into Mr Clinton's business affairs was recklessly handed to a special prosecutor with an obsession for sexual prurience. But it was authorised by the Attorney-General. It was regular. It was the Constitution.

That is one way in which Americans hold their President to account. The result may be messy. It may have led to a surfeit of executive accountability in Washington over the past three months. But that is America's business. Britons cannot scoff. They are suffering an accountability famine. Their legislature can hardly muster more than a pip or a squeak at present. They can hardly cast stones over the Atlantic.

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violin, for which "fiddle" is a

colloquialism, was not invented

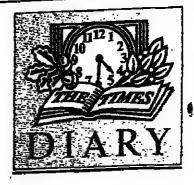
until more than 15 centuries after

the fire of Rome in AD64, at

which Nero is supposed to have

fiddled. And for another, all

witnesses record that Nero did



Toff turns

THE toff who took on the Tory leader has threatened to quit Conrad Black's board, so sick is he of The Daily Telegraph's attacks.

Viscount Cranborne — who resigned as leader of the Tory peers after William Hague condemned his deal with Tony Blair - has written to the proprietor saying that as The Daily Telegraph finds him an embarrassment, he might as well quit. "The paper reminds me of Samgrass in Brideshead Revisit-ed," Cranborne tells me, referring to the oleaginous Oxford don in

Evelyn Waugh's classic.
"It has been licking the arse of the aristocracy for so long that it revels in being able to kick that arse." A recent Telegaph portrait of Lord C advised him to "get lost". Which is rather unfair; he is a good bloke.

 SCANDAL at Buckingham Palace? Sir Robert Fellowes disclosed at a private farewell party that he was "the only private secretary to have been held in the Queen's arms". Anxious looks. Then he added that Papa had been agent at Sandringham and Her Majesty had cradled him as a nipper.

Playing safe
PIERCE BROSNAN and Sophie Marceau (below) have opted out of going skiing because of avalanches. They were to film the James Bond





Chamonix but have been told to hold tight in their ejector seats. "Brosnan," I hear "doesn't want to be shaken and stirred."

● AFTER my exclusive snap of the PM's big brother, I hear promising signs that William Blair will become the new Terry Major-Ball. He is being wooed by James Hughes-Onslow, a scribe friend of the PM, who turned Terry from gnome-painter into literary giant. So far, William is running shy.

Yellow peril

TRAFFIC wardens are to be given body armour, in such high esteem are they held. A pilot study in Haringey, a smokey patch of London, will see wardens protected from knives and bullets - after an increase in "contested" tickets. They will be trained by police in selfdefence, leading to the prospect of super-wardens 'They are public servants," explains Stephen James, a senior nicker. "They have a right to protection." Discuss.



THE STATE OF THE S

◆ CAMBRIDGE is to bestow an honour on Miriam Rothschild, 31 years after Oxford made her an Hon DSc. "Ir's a marvel they thought of me," says the modest 90-year-old bug aficionado, who discovered why fleas jump.

The 39 steps

RAYMOND GUBBAY's enormous set for his forthcoming Tosca at the Royal Albert Hall is exhausting his divas. Normally. Tosca skips up a few steps before issuing her final cry and throwing herself over a wall. But Susan Bullock or Suzanne Murphy, who will play the part on alternate nights, first have to climb 39 steps. They will then have to drop four storeys, for which the singers will wear a special cloak designed to act as a parachute. "It's a formidable feat," says Raymond. "We have every confidence, but we have stand-by singers just in case."

 VOICE trials for seven places in the choir at Westminster Abbey recently attracted just four bays. one of whom was up to the job. In the past, up to 30 bays would have attended — but the recent organ

'From copper bracelets to sticking pins in one's belly, no alternative medicine seems too silly not to attract some true believers' English spelling is katasstroffic; words such as "infer" have single

anessa show faked!" Shock! Horror! splashed over yesterday's redtop front pages. Vanessa Feltz's char show is eructed by the BBC at the scurrying time of day that

is not televiewable by me. But I had assumed that all who chose to appear on such Oprah Winfrey public breastbearings were fakes as well as exhibitionists. And that their audiences must have been kicked in their heads by donkeys when young to believe such tosh. So my zapper is unwrung by the revelations that the "victim" of a violent husband was really a poor player who had never been married. And that two "sisters" said to be locked in a family feud were actually strippagram girls who had first met in the studio. People will believe anything if you breathe it to them with emotion out of the television

But it does come as a bit of a shock when after a century of universal education our national credulity seems to grow rather than diminish. Some of Robert Maxwell's lieutenants claimed (almost plausibly) to be the cleverest men in England. So how came they were so gullible about their boss, who was widely (though cautiously) whispered to be an arrant knave and pirate? Glenn Hoddle should have been sacked for his treacherously irresponsible memoirs. But his inchoate views on reincarnation would have made Plato wince and even the imperturbable Buddha raise an eyebrow, as though painted by Ingres. who

was strong on eyebrows. The hugely self-serving advertising industry is nine-tenths con-trick based on fake and gullibility. Who other than advertising whiz-kids could believe that plastering their labels over

ing the heroic trish white and blue from the paint advertising an idiotic bank would endear us to their products or services? Presumably advertising must work a bit. But not as much as they pretend. Some gullible fools may drink a brand of lager

sportsmen, or colour-

because it is advertised on the shirt of an England cricketer (or footballer), in the hope that sympathetic magic will make them play as well as their heroes. But there must be just as many of us who resolve never to touch the muck or use the bank, and not just for fear that we might start playing as feebly as England footballers or cricketers.

There is no alternative medi-

cine, from copper bracelets and sticking pins into oneself.

from having pendu-lums dangled over one's beily to smells and bells, too silly

not to attract some true believers. Will sitting under a green pyramid solve one's existential prob-lems? There will be takers, and not just from the Hello! magazine ninnies. The heir to the throne is said to talk to his

vegetables - but then it's hardly like water off a car's back. surprising since he gets plenty of practice at state occasions. Our advanced civilisation is as full of huxters, astrologers, charlatans and fakes, with their gullible gulls, as the decadent Rome that excited Juvenal's indignation. Language is a great creator of myths for the gullible. Such as:

Italian is beautiful. Dutch is ugly. English is difficult (or easy). Crocodiles do not weep. Bulls. like all other cattle, are colourblind. They cannot tell red from green or blue. The Turin Shroud was repeatedly exposed as a marketing take as soon as it was first exhibited for money at Lirey in France in 1357. But carbon-dating and other scientific demonstrations of the fraud fall off the belief systems of true believers

correct and original meanings;

French is a logical language.

arie Antoinette never said "Let them eat cake (brioche, pastry)". It was a proverb long before she was born. And there is no jot of evidence that she ever said it. Nero never fiddled while Rome burned. To start with, the

everything possible to alleviate the calamity. His imperial gardens were thrown open to the distressed multitude. Tems were erected for them. Free corn and other provisions were distributed. "But all the prudence and humanity affected by Nero were insufficient to preserve him from the popular suspicions." The Romans had a proverb for

this phenomenon. Mundus vuit decipi - The world wants to be deceived. We still do. The only difference between now and Juvenal's age of credulity is that our quacks today wear Armani suits and ties by Hermes, and carry pagers and personal super-

wars have scared parents away. JASPER GERARD





TEST TUBE

The Government should condemn the RMT strike action

Valentine's Day is a date for romance. Yet antee would bind the hands of the private on London Underground, Sunday will be a day of trouble and strife as members of the Rail, Maritime and Transport union begin a 48-hour strike. The disruption will cause chaos and misery for hundreds of thousands of commuters and will cost London's companies as much as £70 million. John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister whose responsibilities include transport, and Glenda Jackson, the Minister for Transport in London, have so far remained silent about the walkout. Before the election, the Prime Minister assured voters that unions would be treated with fairness not favours. There will be time when the interests of a Labour Government and the unions diverge," he said. Now is such a time. The Prime Minister and his ministers should condemn the strike.

The strikers' gripe is with the Government's plans to resuscitate the Underground. One of the last nationalised industries, this creaking transport system is an expensive monopoly that has been starved of adequate investment and is a refuge for antique working practices. The proposed "public-private" partnership, under which the Tube's infrastructure would be leased to private companies, would raise £7 billion of investment to improve and

renew the tunnels, track and signals. This innovative plan has appalled the RMT's members, as it threatens to expose their working practices to the cold blast of cost-cutting efficiencies. They have drawn up a wish-list of demands which reads like golden oldies from the Winter of Discontent. One, for example, is that those members currently working 35 hours a week should work only 32 hours a week. Above all, they want an assurance that there will be no compulsory redundancies and that no worker was be sound the for any other company without the individual's written consent. Such a guar-

companies, thereby undermining the purpose of the whole project.

Jimmy Knapp, the general secretary of the RMT, insists that Monday morning's commuters will "see the validity" of the strikers' argument. A handful may agree with the RMT's cause, but few will agree with the union's tactics. Prolonged industrial action might deter private companies from bidding for the leases. If that happened, the only people to rejoice would be the RMT, whose members are parnpered by pay and conditions which few who travel on the Underground enjoy. Tube drivers are paid £25,000 a year for working a 35-hour week. The average salary of people travelling on the Underground is £18,000. Regular commuters will see much of their income swallowed up by paying the highest fares for any underground service in Europe. In return, when Mr Knapp's members are not on strike, travellers are subjected to regular delays, cancellations and overcrowded carriages.

Many commuters have become so used to this approach to industry that it no longer surprises them. Yet they might well raise an eyebrow if the Government refuses to condemn the strike. This is all the more remarkable as the RMT is becoming saturated with supporters of Arthur Scargill's Socialist Labour Party, the ancient contingent of old Labour. The suspicion is that the RMT has bought Labour's silence, giving financial support to 13 MPs' constituencies - including John Prescott's own seat.

Before it was swept into office, new Labour paraded itself as the "consumers" champion". Now it seems that the Third Way is not to condemn or support a strike, but to say nothing. If new Labour really wants to govern as new Labour, silence is not enough. The RMT's strike is utterly individual's written consent. Such a guar- wrong, and ministers should say so.

FAILED IN WALES

Blair resorts to dubious tactics to nominate his man

It may be the land of my fathers but it is the backing of the brothers on which Tony Blair is relying to deliver victory to Alun Michael, the Prime Minister's preferred choice for First Secretary of the Welsh assembly. A heated battle to determine whether Mr Michael or Rhodri Morgan, the MP for Cardiff West, takes that accolade, once destined for Ron Davies, will culminate in a knife-edge vote next Saturday. Mr Michael, although a worthy candidate, is only in with a chance because of a set of deals many of which involve trade union barons. It would seem that the process of Labour Party modernisation

never quite made it to Monmouthshire. This is a contest conducted in a fashion that must make traditional Labour fixers melt with nostalgia. The simple notion of "one member, one vote" deployed elsewhere in the Labour Party with enthusiasm is about as relevant in Wales as it is in North Korea. Nor is this state of affairs any sort of snub to the Labour leadership. It has been deliberately devised to keep Mr Morgan, who would probably win on a standard democratic ballot, out of office. There is instead a complicated electoral college consisting of MPs, MEPs, assembly candidates in one section, trade unions in another, with only one third of the college reserved for ordinary party supporters.

Yellow per

 $e^{-\theta_0}\hat{\psi}$

Mr Michael is, not unsurprisingly as the establishment contender, expected to romp home among the party officials and take the lion's share of support from those unions who have chosen not to consult their members. Mr Morgan will do well anywhere that the franchise is wider. The depth of opposition to the Cardiff MP from

the leadership is difficult to fathom. He is not, by Welsh standards, especially old Labour. He is, however, considered distinctly independent and, worse still, unpredictable. As First Secretary he would be likely to press for more powers in a manner that might be inconvenient to Whitehall. There are a few souls who consider this the essence of devolution. They, it seems, must be shown to be entirely mistaken.

To add farce to irony, even if Mr Michael emerges victorious there is uncertainty about whether he will be the Labour leader in the new assembly. The Welsh Secretary is not fighting a constituency but, rather, is top of the party list for Mid and West Wales in the proportional representation branch of the election. If Labour wins all the real contests in his region then the party will not qualify for any additional members from the PR element of the equation. Mr Michael may thus become the first leader in British history whose personal interest is best served by his party not winning in a landslide. The troops could be forgiven for lacking inspiration.

If Mr Blair's plans in Wales do come unstuck then it will be poetic justice. He has attempted to impose his man by utterly underhand methods. In London, the Prime Minister has had the honesty openly to seek to stop Ken Livingstone on the solid grounds of his past record and likely future behaviour. A similar approach in the Principality would have at least had the virtue of consistency. If Mr Michael does defeat Mr Morgan on the basis of trade union favours, then many will be left wondering what the Prime Minister will have to do to return the compliment later.

A ROCK AND A HARD PLACE

Spain should keep its Foreign Minister in check

Spain has stopped behaving like a responsible member of the European Union. It cannot be compatible with EU membership to ban those holding driving licences from a neighbouring EU member and threaten to stop all civilian overflights. EU freedoms of movement and labour should not allow for long waits at frontiers while guards go through a clear charade of checking documents. Spain's sudden bullying of Gibraltar is a disgrace: a breach of EU law, a breach of international civility and a breach of the mature common sense expected from any country that has bound its destiny to that of its neighbours.

Abel Matutes, the prickly Foreign Minister, has echoed the excesses of Francoist nationalism in announcing measures to put pressure on Gibraltar. A blockade is no way to win the confidence of Gibraltarians that they will find a safe political home inside Spain. With a single, arrogant speech - accompanied by action on the ground - he has destroyed the hopes, nurtured in regular talks with Britain and in speeches offering sweet reasonableness, that the dispute between London and

Madrid can be resolved diplomatically. The immediate cause of this outburst is the agreement concluded by Peter Caruana, Gibraltar's Chief Minister, with local Spanish fishermen. This resolved the frequent rows over their intrusion into waters around Gibraltar and was happily accepted by all sides. As such, it was also endorsed by Britain as a sensible conclusion to incidents that had caused legitimate anger on both sides of the border.

But to Señor Matutes it was an outrage. Bypassing Madrid, it appeared to endorse Gibraltarian sovereignty over the waters around the Rock This, he believed, had been specifically ruled out in a verbal understanding with Robin Cook last October. He felt betrayed. And above all, he felt foolish. Spanish politicians do not like losing face in any circumstance.

Already there are indications that his bhister has embarrassed his Government. Britain has launched a formal protest in the EU. It has moved swiftly to counter his claims that Gibraltar had failed to implement EU law - a genuine grievance four years ago - and claims that his tally is mostly fantasy. Much mockery has been made of the failure of both Señor Matutes and Mr Cook to find a reliable mobile phone on which to talk to each other. If pride still prevents either from picking up a normal landline, then perhaps Mr Blair should call José Maria Aznar to discuss things in a more statesmanlike manner.

To its credit, Spain's Socialist Party recently pronounced the politics of confrontation a failure: Gibraltar, it said, would be convinced only by panence, good neighbourliness and an agreement to set aside sovereignty disputes for a while. That would indeed have a chance of winning Gibraltar's trust. The threats of Senor Matutes can only revive old suspicions on the Rock and in London.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London El 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Poetry cast loose on open market

Caution urged on joining the euro

From the Head of the Policy Unit, Institute of Directors

Sir, I read with bemusement Peter Riddell's "Short-changed by our ap-proach to the euro" (February 5), in which he says that "the only test that maners is convergence of interest rates" for entry into the euro.

To start with, it is quite unclear that we will get interest-rate convergence between the UK and euroland with-out triggering UK inflation over the next couple of years or so. As the Governor of the Bank of England has suggested, it would be most unwise to cut our interest rates to euroland's rates at present for fear of overheating the labour markets. And, looking forward over the next year or two, many commentators are expecting British rates to stay around 1.5 to 2 per cent higher than in euroland, assuming respective inflation targets. Given the acute sensitivity of the British economy to changes in short-term interest rates a cut of, say 2 per cent, "at a stroke" would probably trigger inflation.

But even if we achieved the Holy Grail of the same interest rates with-out inflation. I would challenge the implication that this is a sufficient criterion for living happily ever after with euroland's interest rates. A similar interest rate does not, for example, mean the all-important cyclical con-vergence. Cyclical convergence is all about (a) having similar measures of capacity utilisation (for example, unemployment rates) and (b) moving in tandem through the cycle.

There is little evidence that either of these criteria will be satisfied over the next two years. And even if we did, by some miracle, slip into cyclical "sync" with euroland it is unlikely to be sustainable because of structural differ-ences, including our sensitivity to changes in short-term interest rates and our greater dependence on dollar

Interest rate convergence is quite inadequate. If we wish to maintain economic stability (and I believe the Bank is doing a very good job) we must either keep our monetary sovereignty or ensure we have true cyclical and structural convergence before throwing in our lot with the ECB.

Yours sincerely, RUTH LEA, Head of the Policy Unit, Institute of Directors, 116 Pall Mail, SWI 5ED. February 6.

Church in the suburbs

From the Vicar of Ewell

Sir, The account of the report of the suburbs by the Civic Trust and Ove Arup (February 5) may come as a who live and work in suburbia. Over the years the myth of some almost idyllic metroland, with an over-use of the word "leafy", has done much to conceal the truth. I am glad that this report has seen the light of day, for I was beginning to wonder whether any serious attempt would ever be made to uncover the real problems of suburban life, let alone attempt to talk about dealing with them.

Some years ago the Church of England produced two substantial reports, Faith in the City (1985) and Faith in the Countryside (1990). In 1996 I asked a formal question in the General Synod as to whether a comparable and equally weighty survey might be embarked upon, emitted Faith in the Suburbs, in order to complete the picture. I was somewhat taken aback by the gust of laughter at the suggestion. My private member's motion, tabled to assess the measure of support, failed to reach the required figure of 100, and therefore lapsed.

The Church of England may not be alone in thinking that all is well in its suburban heartlands. However, I cherish the hope that the Civic Trust report will galvanise it into a serious assessment of its role in the suburbs, instead of regarding suburban parishes as little more than contented milch cows, best left alone so long as they can be relied upon to pay a hefty share of the diocesan quota.

Yours faithfully, RICHARD HANFORD, Ewell Vicarage, Church Street, Ewell, Epsom, Surrey KT17 2AQ.

Death of Hussein

From Mr Ben Strickland

Sir, King Hussein's ability to seek peace and reconciliation was always a strong facet of his character. In the summer of 1961 I was present when at his request, my late father, Major-General Michael ("Strick") Strickland, invited the King and Glubb Pasha to his house at Frensham. Surrey.

This was the first time they had met since Glubb's dismissal in 1955 and was a most cordial and touching reunion. The two spoke quietly together for a long time in Arabic. The King appreciated all that Glubb had done for Jordan and regretted his abrupt dismissal. Together with his wife Muna, he joined in all the fun that day, including rough games of croquet and consequences.

My father, who died in 1982, had been the last British commanding officer of a Beduin regiment. He was the senior British officer in Jordan after Glubb's dismissal and at the time of Suez, and the very last British

Sir, Henry Reece, Chief Executive of

From Professor Jon Stallworthy.

the Oxford University Press (letter, January 9: see also letter, January 11), describes Alan Howarth's charge of "barbarianism" against the OUP as "bizarre". However, he fails to ad-dress the central argument of the

minister's speech, in which he said: minister's speech, in which he said:
The Press is rightly proud to publish the new Oxford English Dictionary. Sir Keith Thomas, a great scholar whom I hold in warm regard, claims indeed that to be guardian of the OED is to be the custodian of the English language. But poets, erainly no less than lexicographers, are shapers of the English language. The custodian is abandoning its task if it abandons our poets. If it is appropriate for the OUP to subsidise the Dictionary, is it not equally appropriate to subsidise the poetry list (and appropriate to subsidise the poetry list (and at a small fraction of the cost)?

So there is a clear public interest in this So there is a clear public interest in this matter. That is a view taken not only by me, but also by 63 of our acknowledged legislators of all parties who have signed a motion in the House of Commons deploring this decision of the OUP.

Another aspect of the "public interest" argument is that, when 35 OUP poets are laid off, they go to the head of the queue at the doors of more enlightened publishers, thereby preventing or at least delaying the publi-cation of a comparable number of other poets. The whole structure and economy of the nation's poetry publishing has been distorted by the OUP's revised "strategic priorities". These might be justified had the Press never published new poetry, but contraception is not the same as murder of a healthy 39-year-old.

Finally, when Mr Reece says "We have never published any other kind of contemporary adult creative writ-

ing", he seems not to know his own list, which today boasts the plays of Christopher Fry, the brothers Capek. the Nobel Prize-winning Wole Soyin-ka, and has under contract a reissue of the plays of Athol Fugard. Similar-ly, the OUP's series of Twentieth-cen-

tury Classics boasted many contempo-

rary novels by, among others, John Bayley and D. J. Enright. Yours faithfully. JON STALLWORTHY (Deputy Academic Publisher, OUP, 1975-77). Wolfson College, Oxford OX2 6UD.

From the Editor of Poetry Life

February 11.

Sir, Whatever the arguments about the OUPs decision to abandon its support for creative writing, the poets themselves must be delighted.

Presumably, as they are released from any further contractual obligations to OUP they will all be free to offer themselves and their work to other publishers. Since, as we understand, their work is so important to English literature and the modern poetry movement, they will command a high price in the marketplace and surely even now an intense bidding war must be taking place between rival publishers for the most talented.

Of course, if this proves not to be the case, then they will have found their true value in the market.

Yours etc. ADRIAN BISHOP. Editor, Poetry Life.
1 Blue Ball Corner, Water Lane, Winchester, Hampshire SO23 0ER. adrian.abishop@virgin.net

Mixed memories of Maxwell

From Mr M. C. Fitzpatrick

Sir, Lord Donoughue (article, "It wasn't just me he duped Tories too", February 6) discusses the contacts between Robert Maxwell and former Tory Chancellor Norman (now Lord) Lamont. He states: "Maxwell's diary showed that he was due to see him [Lamont] again at No II on the evening of the day that Lamont resigned as Chancellor."

It is worth looking at the chronology behind this statement. Maxwell disappeared on Tuesday, November 5, 1991; at that time a general election was imminent, which the Tories went on to win in April 1992, thereby confounding pundits who generally be-lieved that they would lose. Lamont resigned as Chancellor on Thursday, May 28, 1993.

It seems highly improbable that Maxwell could ment as far back as 1991, to see Lamont at No II on a particular day in 1993 - not least because it was far from certain in 1991 that Lamont would still be Chancellor by 1993.

I recognise that Maxwell has cast a long shadow since his disappearance. On the face of it, Lord Donoughue's

statement really does appear to represent a shadow too far. Yours faithfully, M. C. FTTZPATRICK

(Head of Economics), Chantrey Vellacott DFK. Russeli Šquare House, 10-12 Russell Square, WCIB 5LF. February 8.

From Lord Tebbit, CH

Sir, Lord Donoughue, in seeking to excuse his business relationship with the pensions fraudster Robert Max-well, claims that I was a "ready guest at Maxwell's dining table". I never dined at Maxwell's dining table.

On one occasion, during my time as chairman of the Conservative Party. Maxwell was present at the Editor's dining table of The Daily Mirror. when I was a guest of the Editor. That Maxwell's dining table", let alone a well-paid hanger-on of the notorious Labour Party supporter and financier, Mr Maxwell.

Yours faithfully. TEBBIT. House of Lords. February 8.

Blair and Hitler

From Mr David Ganderton

Sir, I am surprised that Lord Beloff did not pursue his analogies between the rise to power of Hitler and Tony Blair (article, February 9; letters, February 11) to include the likely act of arson on Parliament by some eccentric individual (a member of the imperilled Lords, perhaps?), prior to the passing of an Enabling Act dissolving all other political parties.

Yours sincerely, DAVID GANDERTON, 106 Brooklands Road, Sale, Cheshire M33 3SL. February 11.

From Mr Ken Birks

Sir. Any of your readers, unable to sleep at night after reading Max Bel-off's article, may be reassured. Tony Blair hasn't made the trains run on time yet.

officer in the Arab Legion. In 1958

King Hussein asked Macmillan if my

father, who was then serving on the

Defence Staff in London, could return to Jordan. He did so for two critical

When my father finally left Jordan the King wrote: "Jordan will always be a second home to you." Indeed, our

family has very warm memories of

him and Jordan and we are extremely

From Group Captain Peter D. Bird.

Sir, King Hussein need not have lost

the West Bank or East Jerusalem in

Letters that are intended

for publication should carry a

davtime telephone number. They

may be sent to a fax number -

0171-782 5046.

e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

years, as Chief Military Adviser.

Yours faithfully. KEN BIRKS. Stockport SK2 6BP.

sad at his passing.

BEN STRICKLAND,

23 Juer Street, SW11 4RE.

Yours sincerely

February 10.

'Bean counter' culture

From Mr Dave Lowry

Sir, It was interesting to read of the broad engineering qualifications and backgrounds of the executives of BMW, particularly of the new chief executive, Joachim Milberg (article, Business News, February 8). Perhaps, if the typical UK plc executive over the past two decades had mirrored more closely his career in production technology and been close enough to the "cutting edge" to receive a professorship, British companies might now be worrying about how to improve performances in German factories rather than the other way round.

Yet again our short-sighted and short-term "bean counter" culture at the top has failed us, and continues to do so. Many of our top executives have much to answer for.

Yours faithfully. DAVE LOWRY (Management consultant). WaterFall Development Services. 7 Afan Close, Kettering, Northamptonshire NNI6 9FP. dalow@cwcom.net February 8.

1967. I know that he was told by the Israelis at the time that if "he kept out of the conflict he wouldn't get hurt".

Yours sincerely, PETER D. BIRD (British Defence Attaché. Tel Aviv. 1967-1971), Wenlock House, Dinghurst Road. Churchill BS25 5PN.

From Ms Keren Bobker

Sir, I was most taken aback at the superior and patronising tone of Peter Brookes's cartoon today, captioned "The next summit". At the age of 37 King Abdullah II can hardly be considered a baby.

While the new King cannot yet have the same depth of knowledge and diplomatic skills as his late father, such a negative portrayal does nothing to help an already fragile situation.

Yours faithfully, KEREN BOBKER, 35 Victoria Avenue, Surbiton, Surrey KT6 5DL. kbobker@auerhope.co.uk February 9.

Morse reign over but not quite out

From Mr Nigel R. MacNicol

Sir, Sadly, many leading practitioners of Morse code (report and leading article. February I) will soon retire or convert to satellite telephony. Is it too much to hope that, before they do, someone will make tape recordings of their work?

Your leading article observed that "Experts can ... recognise another operator's 'signature touch'" (which greatly assisted the Enigma decoders at Bleichley Park during the war), but

it is more than that.

My own Morse (when in the RAF). despite my best efforts, always sounded to me like the spiky, ill-formed script of a schoolboy's essay, complete with occasional crossings-out. Ma-chine code (produced by a perforated tape running at a precise speed) was perfect, but deadly dull and boring to receive, like typing from a civil ser-vant. By comparison, Morse from an expert operator was a delight, like copperplate or a fine italic from the quill of an artist. To compare it with machine code would be like compar-

ing Horowitz with a pianola, If recordings have not been made, future generations may be able to listen only to the machine code. Fine Morse, like all artistry, is worthy of preservation and study.

Yours faithfully, NIGEL MacNICOL 9 Church Lane, Greetham, Oakham, Rutland LEI5 7NF. nrmacnicol@aol.com February 2.

From Dr Neil Witt

Sir. The introduction of the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS) on February 1, 1999, has not meant the end of Morse for distress, as this was discontinued on December 31, 1997.

GMDSS does more than replace Morse code, it offers a shore-based. worldwide infrastructure aimed at supporting marine communication, an important aspect missing in the "good old days".

Yours faithfully. **NEIL WITT** (Senior Lecturer in Navigation Systems), Institute of Marine Studies, University of Plymouth. Devon PL4 8AA. nwitt@plymouth.ac.uk February I.

From Mr Michael Vaisey

Sir, "Morse code ceases to be the official medium for worldwide navigational communication", according to your leader.

Well no. Morse code is used to identify aeronautical navigation beacons infoughout the world and wil continue to do so for a long time yet.

Yours sincerely, MICHAEL VAISEY, Fullers Hill, Little Gransden, Sandy, Bedfordshire SG19 3BP. February 2

From Commander T. V. G. Binney. RN (retd)

Sir, Much enjoyed your leader though not the headline "Over and out". Real R/T users know it is one or the other, never both. Your version is reserved for Hollywood war heroes and Solent gin-palace seadogs alongside the Hamble.

Yours faithfully GILES BINNEY, Close Cottage, Rogate, Petersfield, Hampshire GU31 5HN. February 3.

Knot rated

From Sir Alan Muir Wood FRS, FEng

Sir, Professor Ian Fells, a distinguished engineer, expresses chagrin (letter, February 5) that his distinctive bow-tie leads to his identification as an architect.

In my experience, only functionalist architects wear bow-ties; if of the clipon variety they may yet fall into the soup. Minimalist architects (and musicians) may be identified by their grandad shirts, modernists by their colourful science-fiction apparel, the designer version of the Mao suit. So each of these types neatly outflanks the problem which Professor Fells

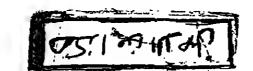
Yours faithfully. ALAN MUIR WOOD. Franklands, Bere Court Road. Pangbourne, Berkshire RG8 8JY.

From Mr Paul Redstone

Sir. I support Professor Fells in his support for the bow-tie, but it can have additional disadvantages in terms of the perception of others.

Some years ago, as an entrepreneur seeking an increased overdraft from a major bank, I was told by the manager that he and his colleagues regarded the following as indicative of a bad risk in a business: large company cars, flagpoles outside the premises and directors with bow-ties.

Yours solvently. PAUL REDSTONE, Edgingtons. Broad Oak Road, Cripps Corner, Robertsbridge, Sussex TN32 5RY paul_redstone@csi.com February 5.





COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE February II: The Queen, accompanied by The Duke of Edinburgh, this morning presented The Queen's Anniversary Prizes for Higher and Further Education at Buckingham Palace and afterwards Her Majesty and His Royal Highness gave a reception.
The Princess Royal and The

Duchess of Kent were present. The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh were represented by Sir Richard Hanbury-Tenison (Lord-Lieutemant of Gwent) at the Service of Thanksgiving for the Life of Colonel Roderick Hill which was held at St Mary's Church, Chepstow, Gwent, today, The Prince of Wales was repre-

sented by Major General Lennox The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, was represented by The Dowager Viscountess De L'Isle.

CLARENCE HOUSE February II: Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother, Colonel-in-Chief, Royal Australian Army Medical Corps, today received Brigadier Robert Atkinson, Assistant Sur-geon General, Australian Defence

Force (Army). Her Majesty was represented by Sir Alastair Aird at the Service of Thanksgiving for the Life of Captain Brian Stonehouse which was held in St Pau's Church,

Today's royal

Birthdays

engagements
The Princess Royal will open the new outpatients department at Clevedon Cottage Hospital. Clevetoday Admiral Sir Peter Abbott, 57: General Sir John Akehurst, 69; General Sir John Archer, 75: Mr Steve Backley, athlete, 30: Profes-sor A.H. Beckett, Emericus Profesvisit Bristol Port Company, St Andrew's Road, Avonmouth, Brissor of Pharmacy, Chelsea College, tol at 12.30. London University, 79; Mr Alexander Cartile, QC, and former MP, 51: Viscount Chandos, 46; Miss Moy Keightley Annette Crosbie, actress, 65; Mr Howard Davies, former Director-

A celebration of the life of Moy Keighdey, Artist, Teacher and Writer, will be held in the Music School of North London Collegiate School on Sunday, February 28, 1999, at 3.00pm. Friends, former colleagues and students are wel-come. Please ring the School Office, 0181 952 0912, for further

University news

Emmanuel College, Cambridge By invitation of the Master and Fellows, the first annual Comes Fellows, the first annual Gomes Lecture at Emmanuel College, Cambridge, was delivered on Thursday, February II, 1999, by Professor Amartya Sen, FBA, Mas-er of Trinity College, on This Cambridge and That. Afterwards the Master, Professor J.E. Flowes Williams, presided at Dinner.

The Gomes Lecture and Dinner have been endowed by Cyathia Wight Rossano and Kenneth Ralph Rossano, of Boston, Massachusens, USA, in honour of The Revd Professor Peter Games, Honlege, Plummer Professor of Christian Morals at Harvard University and Puscy Minister at the Memoria Church, Harvard, Those present Professor Gomes, Mr. and Mrs. Rossano and Miss Penelope Rossano, and guests of the College.

Pembroke College, Oxford Anatoly Malevanets has been elected to the BTP Research Fellow-ship in Polymer Science at PenKnightsbridge, this morning ST JAMES'S PALACE February II: The Prince of Wales. President. The Prince of Wales's Foundation for Architecture and the Urban Environment, this morning attended a Seminar on

His Royal Highness Patron. Association for Business Sponsor-ship of the Arts, this evening attended a reception for ABSA's Creative Forum for Culture and the Economy

BUCKINGHAM PALACE February II: The Prince Edward, Patron, this evening attended the London Mozart Players' Fiftieth Anniversary Concert in the Royal Festival Hall, South Bank Centre, London SEI. BUCKINGHAM PALACE

February 11: The Princess Royal this afternoon opened the adoles-cent unit of the Middlesex Hospi-tal, Mortimer Street, London Wi. KENSINGTON PALACE February II: The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, Patron, this afternoon visited The Peck-

ham Settlement, Goldsmith Road, London SEIS. ST JAMES'S PALACE February II: The Duke of Kent,

Parron, British Computer Society, this evening attended the British Computer Society IT Awards at The Royal Society, 6 Carlton House Terrace, London SWI.

General, CBI, 48; Dr K.J.R. Ed-wards. Vice-Chancellor, Leicester

University, 65; Mr Stephen Gibbs,

former chairman, Turner and Newall, 79; Lord Greene of Har-

Lord Hamlyn, 73; Miss Chris-

tine Hancock, general secretary, Royal College of Nursing, 56; Mr Anthony Howard, journalist and broadcaster, 65; Sir Robin Mack-

worth-Young, Librarian Emeritus

to The Queen, 79; Mr Martin

Mears, former President, Law Society, 59; Lord Morison, 68: Lord

Movoia, 76: Dame Alison Munro.

former High Mistress, St Paul's

Giris School, 85; Mr John Rais-

man, former chairman, Shell UK,

70: Mr Justice Rougler, 67: Mr

Fergus Slattery, rugby player, 48; the Hon Nicholas Soames, MP, 51;

Mr Peser Temple-Morris, MP. 61: Sir Aubrey Trotman-Dickenson, former Principal, University of

Wales College of Cardiff, 73; Mr

Ronald Wild, symphonic trumpet-er, 91; Lord Wigoder, QC, 78: Mr

Albert Williams, trade unionist, 72;

Mr Franco Zeffirelli, opera, film

and theatrical producer and design-

The life barony conferred upon Sir

Peter Michael Imbert has been

gazetted by the name, style and

title of Baron Imbert, of New

Ronney in the County of Kent.

Baron Imbert

row Weald, 89.

Lord Golf of Chieveley, FBA, Baroness Wilcox, Sir John Bakumbe (treasurer, Lincoln's Inn), Vice-Admiral Sir James Wentherall, Sir Joseph Hotung, Major-General Michael Scott, Major-General E. J. Webb-Carner, Miss Ann Lestie, Mr Murik Litmans, OC, the Rev Roger Holloway (preacher) and Mr David Machin (under Hunterian Society
The President of the Hunterian Society, Dr Jeffrey Rosenberg, welcomed Sir Claus Moser, FBA, Chairman of the British Museum Development Trust, and Sir Mar-tin Holdgate, President of the Zoological Society of London, as guest speakers at the Anniversary Dinner held at the Savoy Hotel on February 11.

Dinners

Army Board General Sir Roger Wheeler, Chief of the General Staff, was the host

Army. Among those present were:

Fruiterers' Company
The Archbishop of Canterbury

attended the annual dinner of the

the Wardens, presided and present-ed the Ridley Award to Mr Peter Wheldon for his services to fruit

growing. Lady Justice Butler-Sloss, Alderman Sir Christopher

Leaver and Sir Rowland Whitehead also spoke. The Sheriffs attended. Among others present were:

The Ambung United Spread weets.

The Ambung United Spread of Ireland, the Cuputy High Commissioner for South Africa, the Minister-Commissioner of the Morrocan Embussy, Lord Arrestrong of Inninster, Burmers O'Cathain, Admiral of the Fleet Str. Benjamin Bathauxt and the Recorder of

Gray's Inn Mr Martin Collins, QC, Treasurer

of Gray's Inn, and Masters of the Bench entertained the following

guests at dinner in hall last night, it being Grand Day of Hilary

Royal Anniversary Trust

Viscount Younger of Leckie, KT, Chairman of the Royal Amiversa-ry Trust, presided at a national celebration dinner held last night at Guildhall after the presentation ceremony of The Queen's Anniver-sary Prizes for Higher and Further Education, held at Buckingham

Professor Sir Stewart Suther land, FBA, Principal and Vice-Chancellor of Edinburgh Universi-ty, and Mr Robin Gill, founder of the prizes scheme, also spoke. The 1998 prizewinners are:

1998 prizewinners are:
Einminghum Chi of Pool, Tourism and Creative
Studies [Education and maring he die hospinally
and sporten industrica], Bournemouth and Poole
Chi of Art à Design [Sdocation for the libe
industry], Cambridge Univ (Mathematics sp-plied), Dorder Univ (Mathematics sp-plied), Dorder Univ (Mathematics sp-plied), Dorder Univ (Mathematics sp-plied), Dorder Univ (Mathematics sp-lied), and and brottments), Bacter Univ Childrent health and exercise research and dissemination), Clasgow Univ (Computing acien-tes teaching and essential, Gothalming Coll (Real, resourch in A Level stence), Hills Rood Stati-resourch in A Level stence), Hills Rood Stati-resourch (Upgrading ischiles, section), and Constrainty provision), Link of Wales, Lumpter Accreditation and up-alling of workers broat the voluntary accost, London Locat (Creativity and transvation in Institute relucation), Longmoneough Loby (potentiations) development agintecrossy education Braining, research and gassultancy), UMST (Engineering and technology) is industry; advanced degree programment, Unit of Wales Coli of Medicine (Chemistiniateosment research and freedoment in clinical transpossis). Middlesses, Low (Mesterials for technology searching in a circumstration of the company services and consumer asystem. Physicath Coli of Perther Education (Dotresch courters for retraining and lifetong learning). Reading Unit (Shalkesperman research interests and the Gibbs Theories, Royal Fedinosty), Ludoud Units (Geball lifetoniation Security assisting and research). Bayal Forthers Coli of Misses, Special course crashing the leaching of seasing lifetoniations to large groups. Steffield out to the control of the providence Steffield out to the control of the providence degrees is materials engineering.



Paul Watkins, principal cellist of the BBC Symphony Orchestra, playing the Segelman violoncello by Stradivari at Christie's South Kensington yesterday. The violoncello is expected to sell for £600,000 to £800,000 at auction on March 17

Memorial services

Colonel Roderick Hill The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh were represented by Sir Richard Hanbury-Tenison, Lord-Lieutenant of Gwent, at a service of thanksgiving for the life of Colonel Roderick Hill, former Lord-Lieutenant of Monmouthshire and Gwent, held yesterday at St Mary's Chepstow. The Prince of Wales was represented by Major-General Lennox Napier

Major-General Lennox Napier and Princess Margaret by the Dowager Viscountess De L'Isle. The Rev Christopher Blanchard, Vicar of Chepstow, officialed. The Right Rev Clifford Wright, said the bidding prayer and pronounced the blessing. Mr Michael Hill, son, and Mr Arthur Somerset, grandson, cave trad-Somerset, grandson, gave read-ings. Major Lord Middleton gave The Rev Gareth Evans and the

and seated in the Choir.

The Lord-Lieutenant of Powys, the Lord-Lieutenant of Mid Glamorgan and the Chairman of Monmouthshire County Council attended. Among others present

The Hon Geoffrey and Mrs Somerser (son-in-law and daughter). Mrs Michael Hill (daughter-in-law), Mr and Mrs Nicholas Boyd, Mr and Mrs Richard Sont-Watson, Mr and Mrs Iames Hill and Edward Hill (grandchildren), Mr and Mrs David Hill, Major-General and Mrs Magray Naylor, Mrs E Hinson, the Hon

njamin and Mrs Leigh, Mr and Mrs

Benjamin and Mrs Leigh, Mr and Mrs Chartes Graham.

The Earl of Leven, the Right Rev Eryl Thomas, Major General Lard Alvingham, Lady Islwy, Lord Roglan, Mr and Mrs Robert Boscawen, Major the Hon Richard Margesson, the Hon Lady Rous, the Hon Peter and Mrs Strutt. Brigadier the Hon H Willoughily, Brigadier Sir Jeffrey and Lady Pouse, Brigadier Sir John Hong, Strutt, Sir Harry Lewellyn, Sir Anthony and Lady Thitton, Serena Lady Matheson, Lieutenant-Colonel Sir John Miller, Lady Crawshay, Lady Hambury-Tenison, Sir Reginald Seconde, Major C W and Lady Elizabeth Lambon,

Mr M Davies (chief canemive, Caerphally County Council), Brigadier W Mackereth (TAVRA Wates), Mr G Clay ichanna, Chepstow Raccourse; and Mrs Clay, Mr T R Coughting (Newport and Gwest Boys Brigadie), Mr D Nortis (Gwent Soost Council), Capnain R Li Perry (104th Regiment RA), Mr Jonald Powell (Provincial Crand Master, Montmouthshing Grand Lodge), Mr John Pugh (Haberdashers) Montmouth Schools), Mr Watsins (Oranel of St. John in Montmouthshing).

onmouthstane).
Major-General and Met John Cownin.
ajor-General W M E Hiele, Major-General
and Mrs D A H Toler, Major-General
a Walle-King. Major-General R H C 8 Wallis-King, Majur-General R H
Whitworth, Colonel B Windsor-Cive,
Brigadier R C Windsor-Cive, Mrs B J
Adair, Mr and Mrs David Tudway
Quiller, Mr A W Twismo-Davies, Mr L
Polkinghorne, Captain and Mrs C Rudchillis, Mr and Mrs Charles Spencer, Mr C
E Wentherby, Mrs Richard Francis, Mr
Richard Meade, the Rev Michael Wenhem
and trany other friends and former
collections.

Mr Brian Stonehouse Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother was represented by Sir Alastair Aird at a service of thanksgiving for the life of Mr Brian Julian Warry Stonehouse, warnine Special Operations Executive (SOE) agent, held yesterday at \$t Paul's, Knightsbridge. The Rev Neil Dawson officiated.

Mr Christopher Sheepshanks and Mr Robert Summans, neph-ew, read the lessons. Mr Peter Lee and Mme Brigitte Jourday-Huber gave addresses. Mr Bruce Stonehouse, great-nephew, read a trib-ute by M Bruno Tripier. The Prench Ambassador was represented by Colonel Michel Perrodon. Members of the family, friends and former colleagues were

among those present. Saddlers' Company

Mr David Snowden, Master of the Saddlers' Company, presented prizes to the winners of the Society of competition at a reception held yesterday at Saddiers' Hall.

The winners were:

The winners were:
Cass 1, Michael Pegg Class 2, Martin
Gulliver; Class 3, Surah Ford; Class 4,
Frances Kelly; Class 5, Lorna Griffing Class
6, Carrien Coppene Class 7, John McConaid: Class 8, Tabe Armenna; Class 9,
Johan Ulvede.
The Neil McCarraher Award in Class 1
for the company which produced the
most attractive and commercially viable
saddle was won by Michael Pegg and the
Bruce Entage Memorial Trophy for the
best overall entry was won by Frances
Leily.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr A.E.G. de Capell Brooke and Miss V.M.C. van Agimzal
The engagement is announced
between Alexander, son of Mr and Mrs Hugh de Capell Brooke, of Great Oakley, Northamptonshire, and Viviana, daughter of De Heer and Mevrouw Edward van Agimaal, of s Gravenhage. The Netherlands.

Mr R.E. Ewart Smith and Miss M.H. Klien

he engagement is aunounced between Roger, younger son of the late Mr Richard Ewart Smith and of Mrs Ewart Smith, of Walberton, West Sussex, and Marianne, daughter of the late Mr Walter Klien and of Mrs Klien, of St.

Mr C.J.U. Frew and Miss M.L. Weitzel The engagement is announced between Colin James Urquhart, son of Dr and Mrs R.L. Frew, of Oban, Argyil, and Marjorie Lynn, voungest daughter of the late Mr C.C. Weitzel and of Mrs M.C. Gallagher, of Grosse Pointe, Michigan.

Mr R.A. Huime and Miss K.J. Garner

The engagement is announced between Richard, eldest son of the late Mr A. Hulme and of Mrs Huime, of Shrewsbury, Shropshire, and Katharine (Minnie), daughter of Mr J.A. Garner, of Hove, Sussex, and Mrs M. Garner, of Repton, Derbyshire.

Mr G.P.D. Toosey and Miss C.E.N. Reekie The engagement is announced between Giles, only son of Mr Patrick Toosey, of Oxton, Merseyside, and the late Penny Toosey, and Charlotte, only daughter of Dr Ian Reekie, of Blockley, Gloucestershire, and Mrs Sally Wright, of West Woodhay, Berkshire.

Mr S.R. Henderson and Miss A-L. Furminger The engagement is announced between Scott Henderson, of Yardley, Birmingham, and Anne-Louise Furminger, of Maidstone.

KenŁ Mr R.A.G. Jeans and Miss S.J.A. Villiers The engagement is announced between Robert, son of Lady Jeans and the late Sir Alick Jeans, of Heswall, Merseyside, and Sarah, daughter of the late Mrs Elizabeth Fletcher and the late Captain

Sandy Villiers. Mr M. Joyston-Bechai and Miss C.R. Bodie The engagement is announced between Marcus, younger son of Mr and Mrs Montague Joyston-

Bechal, of London NWI, and Camilla, daughter of Mr and Mrs Anthony Bodie, of London NW8. Mr J.N. Smith and Miss C.V. Dimond

The engagement is announced between James, elder son of Dr and Mrs Robert Smith, of St ippolyts, Hertfordshire, and Clare, elder daughter of Professor Bridgit Dimond and the late Profes Shuart Dimond, of Llandaff.

Mr P.G. Taylor mr P.A. Taylor
and Miss C.A. Keogh
The engagement is announced
between Panl, only son of Sir
Godfrey and Lady Taylor, of Hove,
East Sussex, and Clodagh, elder
daughter of Mr and Mrs Finlan Keogh, of Dalkey, Dublin.

Mr M.D. Young and Miss F.C. Peacock The engagement is announced between Michael Douglas, son of Mr and Mrs Michael Young, of Great Western Road, Aberdeen, and Fleur Charlotte, daughter of Mr and Mrs Anthony Peacock, of Boltongate Old Rectory, Cumbria.

Tonbridge School Music, Art and Technology Schobuships 1999 The following awards, listed in aiphabetical order, have been made for September 1999:

made for September 1999:
Music Scholarskipe
Beward Bunner (King's College School,
Cambridge); Oliver Brett (The New Beacon,
Sevenoush); Jonatham Bargets (Crist
Church Cambrint School, Oxford); Edward
Cohen (Oalswood Park Grangmay School,
Maidstone); Michael Collins (St Aulyns,
Rottingdean); Giles Ekhlorn (Dolwich College Preparatory School, London); Thomas
Hensing (The New Beacon, Sevenoush);
Alexander Harrild (Dolwich College Preparstary School, London); Edward Hurr
(Sevenoushs Preparatory School, Sevenoushs);
Alexander Harrild (Dolwich College Preparastary School, London); Edward Hurr
(Sevenoushs Preparatory School, Sevenoushs);
Alexander (Right (St. Paul's
Co-educational College, Hong Kong); Bradicy Webb (Hilden Grange, Tunbridge).

Latest wills

Robin Ray, freelance broadcaster and writer, of Brighton, left estate valued at £325.312 net. The 7th Marquess of Ormonde, of Burr Ridge, Illinois, US, left estate valued at £14.483 net. Ermengarda Rogers, of London. SW19, left estate valued at

£566,900 net. John Stuart Bell, of Potton, Bed-. fordshire, left estate valued at £1,299,836 net. Geraldine Arme Browne, of Lydeard St Lawrence, Taumon,

Somerset, left estate valued at EL509,946 net. Arthur Collier, of Dorking, Surrey, left estate valued at £1,253,546 Det

Gerard Nicolas Pyemont Chastel de Boinville, of Walkern, Steve-nage, Hertfordshire, left estate valued at £1,352.642 net. **Anniversaries**

BIRTHS: Thomas Campion, poet and musician, London, 1567; Cot-ton Mather, Puritan and writer, Boston, Massachusens, 1663; Charles Darwin, naturalist, Shrewsbury, 1809; Abraham Lin-coln, 16th American President 1861-65, Larue County, Kentucky, 1809; Edward Forbes, naturalist, Dougias, Isle of Man, 1815: George Meredith, novelist, Portsmouth, 1828: Marie Lloyd, music-hall singer, London, 1870; Omar Nelson Bradley, American Army general, Clark, Missouri, 1893; Max Beckmann, Expressionist painter, Leipzig, 1884.

DEATHS: Lady Jane Grey, Queen of England May 6-19, 1553, executed London, 1554; Charles Le Brun, painter, Versailles, 1690; Pierre Marivaux, novelist and dramatist, Paris, 1763; Trao Hsueh-ch'in, Paris, 1763: Ts'ao Hsuen-ch'm, novelist, Peking, 1763; Immanuel Kant, philosopher, Königsberg, Germany, 1804; Sir Astley Cooper, surgeon, London, 1841; Hans von Bolow, planist and conductor, Cairo, 1894; Lilife Languy, actress, Monte Carlo, 1925; Charles Voysey, architect, Winchester, 1941; H.M. Bateman, cartoonist, Malta 1970; Leon Goossens, oboist, Tunbridge Wells, Kent, 1988.

Chile's independence was pro-claimed in Santiago, 1818. J.W. Goodrich of Boston, Massachusetts, invented rubber galoshes. 1831.

The first inter-club football match was played at Sheffield between Sheffield and Hallam, 1861. The Manchu dynasty was overthrown and China became a republic, 1912.

BMDS: 0171 680 6880 PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

PERSONAL COLUMN

FAX: 0171 481 9313

Jesus answered: The friends of the bride-groom don't go without eating while he is still with them. But the time will come when he will be taken from them. Then they will go without eating. Matthew 9.15 (CFO). (CEV).

BIRTHS

BRAND - On February 6th at The Portland Hospital, to Suzzane (néë Goodall) and Giles, a son, William Christopher John.

CAPLAN - On 30th Decamber 1998 in Epping, to Geraldine and John, a son, Charles, a brother GAGE - On 9th February, to Anna (née Hobson) and Jonathan, Lavinie, a sister for Edward.

GRAVE - On January 29th, a son, Tobias, to Penny (née Lay) and Charlie, a brother for George.

GREEN - On February 4th 1999, to Katherine (née Ellis) and Alex, a daughter, Meriel, a sister for James.

HALES - On Pebruary 2nd 1999, to Brada Flaherty and Jonathan Hales, a fine son, Sen William.

MANCOCK - On 29th January, to Jane (née Finlayson) and Justin, a son, Albert "Bertie" Gordon Logan.

HOLMES - Jan and Nigel are proud to amounce the birth of their son, Charles Michael David, a brother

LEGH - On February 6th at The Portland Hospital, to Sabins and Simon, 2 daughter, Maya, a sister to Victoria.

LENG - On Sunday 31st January to Venetia (née Hoars) and Hamish, a daughter, Rosanna Elizabeth, a sister for Harry and a pollcy for school fees.

LIDDELL - On 6th February 1899 to Lucinda (née Devies) and Edward, a son, Cherles Jonathan Giles, a brother to Harry and Sinton.

BIRTHS

PAWLOWSKI – On Pebruary 6th at The Portland Hospital, to Antoinetts Preudhomme and Anthony, a beautiful daughter, Ava.

8000 - On February 5th at The Portland Hospital, to Liz (née Hunt) and Arvinder, a daughter, Katle Olivia, a sister for Sophie Jane.

STEWART - On 5th February, to Nicola (née Harrison) and Alasdair, a daughter, Emily Ann, a sister for Charlie.

TOOD - On February 9th at home to Carole (née Bambrough) and Julian, a son, Felix William, a brother for George, Hector and Alice.

DEATHS

BRAMALL - Sir Ashley, politician and barrister, aged 83, died peacefully on 10th February in Trinity 10th February in Trinity Hospica after a short illuses. Husband of Gery, father of Christopher, Richard and Anthony, brother of Dwin. His passing is a grievous less to his family and friends. Cremation on Monday 15th February at 1.30 pm at West London Crematerium, Harrow Road, W10, Flowers to Cheises Funeral Directors 91 Rechester Row, SWIP ILJ. A memorial meeting

ILI. A memorial meeting will be held at a later dat BUTT - On 10th February 1999 peacefully at home Sir Kenneth Butt Bt, beloved hushand of Joey and much loved stepfather of Carol and Donald Flowers and all enquiries to Cecil Newling Funeral Directors, 3 Green Drift, Royston, Herts. tel; (01783) 243048. DEATHS

SIRRELL - Peacefully on February 7th 1999. Robert Michael Surrell, aged 56 years. Former Lecturer at the School of Orlental and African Studies in the University of London. Beloved husband of Ann trafe Fountain) he will be IRRELL - Pea (pée Fountain), he will be

inée Fountain), he will be grently missed by his family, his many friends and former students around the world.

Requiem Mess at All Saints Church, Pin Green, Strvenage on Monday Pebruary 15th at 1 pm. No flowers plesse, Donations, if desired, to The Woodlands Trust would be greatly appreciated and may be sent c/o Austins & Sons, 9/11 Letchmore Road, Stavenage SG1 3IH.

Piesse wear bright colours to celebrate Michael's life.

CADBURY - Michael
Hothum. Suddenly on
February 7th, 1999, aged
83 years. Loving Husband
of Heather and Father of
Andrew, Duncan and the
late Janine, and a much
loved Grandfather. Private

cramation. Memorial
Sarvica to take place on
Saturday March 13th, 1999
at 2.30 pm at the George
Cadhury Hall, Sally Oak
Colleges. Bristol Road.
Birmingham B29. No
flowers by request,
donations if wished made
payable to League of
Frienda of Royal
Orthopaedic Hospital,
Birmingham' or "Scout
Association - County of
Birmingham' may be sent
to; V Morton & Sons Ltd.
Funeral Directors. 705
Bristol Road South,
Northfield, Birmingham
B31 21T, by March 37th
please.

CHEDS - Georgette. Beloved and caring mother of Julian and devoted wife of the late Basil Childs. Died the late Basil Childs. Died on Tuesday February 9th. Funeral at Putney Vale Crematerium on Tuesday 16th February at 12.45pm. No flowers. Donations to Cancer Research or RAF Bestelovest Fund.
Enquiries 0171 937 0757.

DAVENPORT - Elizab OAVENDAN - EIEZZBERI Aurora, daughter of Maj. Gen. Sir Hugh and Lady Tudor and loving and much loved mother of David and John, grandmother of Richard, Sarah, Michael, William, Katharine, Lucy and

Sarah, Michael, William, Katharine, Lucy and Jereany and great-grandmother of Peggy, Luca, William and Benedict, Died peacefully aged 94 on February 10th at St George's Nursing Home in London. Funeral at Putney Vale Crematorium on Thursday 18th February at 12.00 noon. Flowers of JH Kenyon Ltd. 74 Rochaster Row, London SW1P 11U. Tal: 0171 834 4624.

FROST - Barrie on 7th
February 1999 very
pencefully at home after a
long illnest. Much loved
husband of Squeak, Dad
of Kate and Sunie and
granddad of baby Conor
Barrie. Funeral Service at
St Augustine's Church,
Southborough Lane,
Bromley on Wednesday
17th February 1999 at
1pm, followed by a private
burial. Flowers or
donations to St. burial, Flowers or donations to St. Christopher's Hospice and Candle Project (Bergaved Children) gto James W. Constable F/D, 55 Honor Oak Park, Forest Hill, S&23 LEA, tel: (0181) 291-0811.

GRAHAM - Heather died 3rd February 1999, so loving of and so beloved by her inte husband, Lawris. Devoted mother of See, Paul and Ann. Proud gramy of Mark and Lawrie. Pamily only funeral, at her request, has already taken place.

GROSHANG - Arnold Conrad, CEng. FIEE, Hon. FCIRSE., died peacefully in hospital on 8th February 1999. Beloved husband of the late Patricia, dear father of Anne and Jennifer and grandfather of Andrew, Christopher, Josephine und Peter. Funeral at Randalls Park Crematorium, Leatherhead, Wedneeday 17th February, at 3.30 pm and afterwards at his home. Family flowers only please. Donations may be made to St Georges Healthcare NHS Trust c/o A & E Longhurst, 21/23 Kingston Road, Ewell, KT17 2DX.

GWILIM - Mrs Margot Gwillim, (née Mumford). Her children are deeply saddened to announce that saddened to amounte that their mother passed away on 10th February 1998 in her 83th year. Funeral at St Matthews Church, Hayfleid, Derbyshire on 17th February at 2.15pm, Family flowers only. Donations to the Royal Signals Association. Enquiries to: Jeremy Unsworth D1867 742772. Unsworth 01863 742772. ENDRY - On 9th February

HSEORY - On 9th February
1999 peecafully in
Littlehampton Nursing
Home, Frederick (Fred),
Fit. Lt. RAF (redd).
Beloved Dad of Mariam
and Brian and a loving
Grandfather to Jaz and
Clive. Service, Worthing
Crematorium, Findon, on
Thursday 18th February at
11.20 sm. Family flowers
only pieces. Donations if
desired for RAF Princess
Marina House, Rustington,
tony be sent c/o F.A.
Holland & Son, Terminus
Road, Littlehampton, tel.
(01903) 713339. (01903) 713939.

To place death notices, acknowledgements or notices please call 0171 680 6880

HUNT - On February 6th. 1999, peacefully at Ernia: House Nursing Home, Hallsham, John Bernard. Holinbarn, John Bernard, aged 85 years, Beloved husband of the late Alice, much loved father of Beryl and David, devoted grandiather, Funeral Service at St Anne's Church, Lewes on Wednesday, February 17th at 11.15 am, followed by tremation. Family flowers only please, but donations, if desired, to Cancer Research Campaign c/o Cooper & Son Funeral Service, 42 High Street, Lewes, BNT 2DD. 01273-473587.

JOHNSTON - Francis
William, late The King's
Own Scottish Borderers,
on 9th February aged 93.
Dearly loved husband of
Felicity and the late
Elizabeth, father of Judith
and Timothy, grandiather
and great-grandifather. and Timothy, grandiather and great-grandfather. Memorial Service at St Many's Northchurch on Frichty 18th February at 11.30 ms. No flowers. Donations to The Hattfordainter Association for Young People, The Valley School, Stevenage SG2 9AB.

LITTLE - On 9th February 1999 at Coleraine Hospital, after devoted care, Joan, of 2 Ashles Avenue, Sallies avenue, 2 Annies Avenue, Ballymoney, daughter of Major and Mrs JW McConnell, Anne's tister, loving and much loved wife of William (documed) No. 1 Ms to Julian, "belle-belle-mère" to Margaret, "Mamie-Joan" to William, "Fannoera and Bestimm.

LORANT - Eva Elizabeth aged 83 years on 3rd February 1999 in St Mary's Hospital Paddington, after a about Illness. A private cremetion has

MANDER - John FRCS
FRCOG peacefully in his
alsep on 7th February.
Match loved and devoted
father of Philip, Jane,
Maria and James and
grandisther of 7. Funeral
Service and cremation at
York Crematorium Friday
12th February 10 am. No
Gowers please. Donations
if deshed to Cheshire
Homes.

kcDOMALD - Ronald James died unexpeciedly at home on the 8th February aged 70. Lowing hisband of Kathleen and much loved father of Jamet and Ian and grandfather of Samuel. grandiather of Samuel.
Funeral at 4.00 pm on
Tuesday 16th February at
Mortiske Crematorium.
Further enquiries to
Samders & Sons, 447 Upper
Richmond Road, East
Shase, 1 onders 0181 878. Sheen, London, 0181 876

MORRIS - On Pabruary 9th 1999, aged 86, died pencefully after a short illness, Lieutenant-Colones John Morris, late of the Glossestandin Colonel John Mottle, law of the Gloucesterahire Regiment. Beloved husband of Nen, proud father of Richard, Judith and Jane and a much loved grandfather to his eleven grandfather to his eleven grandfather to his eleven randchildren. Funeral ervice at S: Baldreds Church, North Barwick on Tuesday February 16th at 11.30am. Family flowers only. Donations, if desired, only. Donations, if desired to the R.C.R.W. Regimental Charities may be sent to G Wood & Hay Funeral Directors, 43 Court Street, Haddington East Lothian EH41 3AE. Tel 01620 823903.

PLAIT - Samuel Jack on 10th February in Benelmadene, Malaga aged 96, Beloved husband of Helse, father of Nina and Michael, much loved grandfather of Peter, Caroline, Helse, Claire and

Illimite - Donald Peacott of The Daffodile, Doyle Road, Guerney, on February St. 1999 aged 25. Former Deputy Senior Technologist of the Shell oil company and Jurat of the Royal Court of Guerney, Beloved husband of Margaret and father of Edmund, Caroline and Osmond. A man of God.

PRYS-WILLIAMS - Eve Cuthbertson (sée Jones), widew of Gwylmor and mother of Allan, on 9th February in her 80th year in Swansea.

RANK - Joseph McArthur on February 10th aged 80 after a long filmest. Loving husband of Mohrs. Much loved father of Caroline, Colin and Camilla and brother of John, Family funeral at Holy Trinity funeral at Holy Trinity Brompton, family flowers only places, all enquiries to I H. Kennon, 49 Merchan only planes, all anquiries:
to J.H. Kanyou, 49 Mariosa
Road, W8 Si.A (1971)
937-0757. No letters or
flowers to Moira planes. A
Mamorial Servics will be
hald at Holy Trinity
Brompton at 12 noon on
March 19th.

SINGH - Dr. Nawal K.P., late of Chalses and Westningter Hospital, died Sunday 7th February while in India, Deeply

SMITH - Peacefully on 6th February 1999 in Oklahoma, City, USA, Lesile Francis Smith MA PhD, aged 97 years. Former lecturer at the University of City in PhD, agad 97 years.
Former lecturer at the
University of Oklahoma,
Norman, USA, Maine
University and Columbia
University, New York.
Dear husband of the late
Liv Lunderval, leving
father of Joan Borden,
grandfather of Barbara,
Brad and Brian, grandfather of Rebecca
and Caroline. Loved by his
only remaining sister Rita
and her children.
'Unforgettable that's what
you are.' SMETH - Nancy Elizabeth (166 Hawley) died pencalully at home on 9th February 1939; sruch loved wife of David, and loved by Ian and Elaine, Margaret and Kevin, Heisen and Yousef, Jame and Anthony, Derek and Tessa, and het grandchildren David, Guy, Henry, Kate, Archie, Sachs and Oliver, Firnaral

grandchildren Devid, Guy, Henry, Kate, Archie, Sechs and Oliver. Fumeral at Southampton Crimatorium on Thursday 18th February at 12.30pm. No flowers piesse, but any douations to the Multiple Sciences Society.

VARDE-HORBURY - Alistair WARDE-MORBURY - Allatair George, much loved son of Philippe and Tony and brother of Mark, died on February 8th 1998 aged 32 years. Service of Thankeglying at All Saints Church, Hooton Pagnell on Wednesday 17th February at 230 pm.
Family Rowert only please. Donations to MIND c/o lan Bammerton, 217A
Waksfield Road, Barmley Hammerton, 217A Wakefield Road, Ber S71 INT, Enquiries 01226 283753.

THANKSGIVING SERVICES

MORGAN - A Service of Thanksgiving for the life and work of Hilary Morgan will be held at St. John's Church, Beilington, on Seturday 27th February at noon, All welcome.

IN MEMORIAM -PRIVATE CIPIERTS - Edward 12th February 1997. Remembering you today and every day, Valerie.

MALLEY - G. Stiven M.D., M.R.C.P., late of Ascot. Berkshire. Happy memories of a beloved physicisn and father, on what would have been his 100th birthday. His son and daughter. IME - Roland 12th February 1998, levingly remembered and missed. Derothy, Margaret and family.

TRADE: 0171 481 1982 IN MEMORIAM -

PRIVATE WICKHAM - In remembrance of Eather Barbera, our adored mother, on this, the anniversary of her death. Our love and devotion are hers for ever, Colin, Andrew and Sarah.

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was 50 years. 01222 709627 af-

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OBITUARIES

Ulrica Murray Smith, wint Master of the Quorn hunt 1959-85, died on January 22 aged 87. She was born on May 5, 1911.

1928 Ulrica Thynne should have been preparing for the traditional season of a London debutante. But her father, Colonel Ulric Thynne, an outstanding horseman and first-class polo player, suggested to his daughter that she might enjoy a month's riding in the shires before the round of balls and parties. So much did she turn out to enjoy it that her London

"season" never Ulrica Marjorie Thynne had a somewhat sketchy education, but came from aristocratic stock. Her grandfather was the younger son of the 3rd was the younger son of the 3rd Marquess of Bath; her grand-Marquess of Bain; ner Brack L. ther was Lady Ulrica Sey-mour, daughter of the 12th

In 1936 she married Tony Murray Smith, a young officer in the Royal Horse Guards, whose passion for hunting matched his bride's. They met in the hunting field, and after their marriage lived the traditional "rotation" of a young Household Cavalry couple, hunting in the winter, polo in the summer and racing in

England and France. The young couple did not allow the outbreak of war to part them, and the fearless Ulrica, who enjoyed any challenge, managed with some ingenuity to follow her husband to Palestine in the spring of 1940. Together with Ruth

Wood (later Lady Halifax) she shared a house at Nathanya, and when their husbands were on leave, they toured the Middle East. They stayed with a sheikh, went camel racing, and the stables at Nathanya produced some outstanding horses. Ulrica was often a winner in ladies' races.

By the autumn of 1940 the few wives who had succeeded in getting into Palestine were told that they had to leave and return to England. This set a further challenge for Ulrica, who set out for India with her friends Ruth Wood, Mary Duchess of Roxburghe and the late Lady Cadogan. They made their base in Aly Khan's

house in Bombay. Much to everyone's astonishment, Ulrica became a close friend of Dina Wadia, daugh-ter of Mohammed Ali Jinnah, head of the Muslim League and later Governor-General of Pakistan.

After the war, the Murray Smiths returned to Leicestershire. The family home, Gumley, was still requisitioned by the Army (and later pulled down), so they moved into a rented house and hunted with the Quorn, the Fernie and Belvoir hunts. Postwar hunting was a rather different picture, with fewer people out and little petrol. Ploughed fields had appeared, and the

dreaded wire had gone up. In 1954 Tony Murray Smith was invited to become Master of the Quorn. It was not a particularly opportune mo-ment for him. That year he was not only High Sheriff of



ULRICA MURRAY SMITH

Ulrica Murray Smith in 1979: she was widely loved for her long service as Joint Master of the Quorn

Leicestershire, but had been made Colonel of the Leicestershire Yeomanry. By this time, they were living at Gumley, which was far from the centre of Quorn country. They

moved their horses to the hunt kennels, and spent a great deal of time "on the road". Ulrica took up a new career, showjumping, much to the disapproval of the legendary

Quorn huntsman George Barker, who considered showjumpers "inferior creatures". Ulrica became the perfect consort for her husband in his duties as Master. She never

ceased to attend suppers, skittle evenings, pony club events and puppy shows, which became her life for the next 30 years. She accompanied her husband on visits to all the

farmers, and this stood her in good stead when she became a Joint Master five years later. The Murray Smiths became two of the most popular people in the hunting world, and in 1957 they moved to Gaddesby. where Ulrica lived for the rest of her life.

It was a cause of great distress to their friends when Tony Murray Smith left Ul-rica in 1960. He later married Sally Hanbury, former wife of James Hanbury, a Master of the Belvoir. But Ulrica, who had already enjoyed one sea-son as Joint Master of the Quorn, made it a condition of their separation and divorce that she would stay on as Joint Master of the Quorn. Tony Murray Smith returned to a house at Gumley and took the Fernie Hounds. For the next 25 years, Ulrica was the senior Joint Master of the Quorn.

Some potential Quorn members were somewhat wary when they heard that the pack had a lady Master, but with her inimitable charm and wit, she always made them ex-tremely welcome, and most became lifelong admirers. Carpetbaggers" were out as far as Ulrica was concerned, but people who genuinely enjoyed hunting, and showed it, were made to feel totally at home by the Master.

Her hospitality was known far and wide, and when in the 1970s she found herself without a cook, she recruited a young American priest, who hunted with the Quorn, and

Souffles poured out of Gaddesby's kitchen until "Father Rick" announced that he had to return to Utah to manage a considerable family fortune. Somewhat annoyed, she told him that he had been sent to Leicestershire to look after her body and soul — and he had only done half of the job. Now she felt he should stay on to work on her soul. Unfortunate-

ly he was unable to oblige. After Alan Whicker had made a television film about the Quorn, he told her that he could not see that it was cruel to the fox, but he did think that it was terribly cruel to the people who rode to hounds. Leicestershire seemed to echo with the dull crack of breaking bones." She was a regular visitor to Nottingham General Hospital.

In the mid-1970s many people asked her to write a book about her hunting experi-ences. She published *The* Magic of the Quorn in 1980, with a foreword by the Prince of Wales, who had by then had five sessions with the Quorn, and was captivated by her style of leadership.

Ulrica Murray Smith was always quick to praise her fellow Masters, the hunt secretaries and her devoted hunt servants. She was extremely modest about her own, all-important role in the life of the Quorn, and when a succession of parties in her honour followed her retirement in 1985, she was genuinely surprised at the legion of admirhad the added attraction of ers who had followed her being an outstanding cook. career for more than 50 years.

LADY ROBSON OF KIDDINGTON

Baronness Robung of Kiddington, former President of the Liberal Party and a Liberal Democrat spokesman in the House of Lords, died on February 9 aged 79. She was born on August 20, 1919.

SWEDISH-BORN Inga-Stina Robson served-the British Liberal cause-with distinction for more than 40 years. She fought four parliamentary elections, became president of the party and was an assiduous working peer. Above all, she was instrumental, with her husband, in saving the National Liberal Club after a series of financial and other scandals had threatened the citadel of aditional liberalism with exunction. Grateful members her death.

Stina Robson — she was never called anything else was an outstanding figure at the old Liberal Assemblies. She was always beautifully dressed, her designer clothes contrasting with the appearance of the anorak tendency as, for that matter, did her politics. She never regarded pavement repairs as the route to power, and resisted with all

FOR SALE



Lady Robson at Queen Charlotte's Ball in 1990. She chaired the hospital's board of governors

her energy the growing radicalisation of the party. Her deep, sometimes husky voice, the result of chain-smoking, with remnants of her Swedish accent, delivered speeches

which matched the elegance of her clothes.

years she was a prominent Liberal hostess, and many She was a loyal supporter of decisions about party strategy were taken at her home, Jeremy Thorpe throughout his Kiddington Hall in Oxfordleadership of the party and beyond. During the Thorpe

After her education in Stockholm, she joined the Swedish Foreign Office, which sent her to London at the beginning of the war. She met and married Sir Lawrence Robson, who was to become a highly successful City figure, and thus, as a British subject, she was enabled to work at the Ministry of Information.

During the 1950s her husband's thoughts turned to politics, and he was chosen to stand as the Liberal candidate for the constituency of Eye. However, at almost the last moment his developing business interests prevented him from standing, so his wife took his place. It was a hopeless task. Eye had been a Liberal seat in the past, held by Edgar (later Lord) Granville, but by 1955 he was fighting as the Labour candidate against the Tory incumbent. Predictably enough, the Conservative

She fought the seat once more in 1959 against the same two opponents, and again she came bottom of the poll. She was also third in two subsequent election attempts, when she stood for Gloucester in 1964 and 1966. She had made sufficient impact, however, to become chairman of her party in 1970. That was the year she entered Parliament as a life

In the Lords, as in her party, she was in the minority in a man's world, but this never affected her. She knew more about business than most men - her wide financial interests meant she could quote the price of many shares - and as the owner of a large estate in Scotland she was able to

discuss farming as an expert. Stina Robson's interests, however, were not confined to party politics. She was chairman of the board of governors of Queen Charlotte's Hospital and the Chelsea Hospital for 14 years, and from 1974 to 1982 she was chairman of the South West Thames Regional Health Authority. Her two interests coincided when she was appointed Liberal Democrat spokesman on health in the Lords. She attended the Upper House regularly until nearly the end of her life, when she was prevented by osteoporosis. Her husband died in 1982. She leaves a son and two daughters.

BETH WAGSTAFF



Wagstaff seen last year: she combined political wiles and professional judgment

Beth Wagstaff, Assistant Chief Executive of Hertfordshire County Council and founder of the Lavender Trust, died of cancer on January 29 aged 39. She was born on September 3, 1959.

LOCAL government has never been the dreary, dusty world that its detractors portray, but the death of Beth Wagstaff has certainly robbed the municipal scene of one of its brightest personalities. Her star shone brightly because she combined the wiles of a ward politician with the professional judgment of a local authority officer and the passion of a believer in local democracy.

She played a key role in the battles between London local authorities and the Conservative Government in the mid-1980s. As a councillor in the London Borough of Lewisham, she was in the forefront of the rate-capping dispute, in which local councils refused to set a rate in an attempt to avoid cuts in services. She was a firm advocate of equal rights for women, helping to set up one of local government's first omm's committees.

But Wagstaff was no leftwing automaton. Her warmth and sense of humour charmed diehard Socialists and backwoods Tories in equal measure, making her an ideal candidate to lobby Parliament on behalf of the Greater London Council's unsuccessful attempts to thwart Margaret Thatcher's abolition plans.

Once Ken Livingstone and his band of radicals had been elected from County Hall. Wagstaff, as press officer, set about establishing the London Labour boroughs organisation, the Association of London Authorities, as the voice of London. She also campaigned fervently for the restoration of London-wide government, now being implemented.

Wagstaff went on to be director of public relations for the borough of Camden, and quickly moved to rescue the council from its "loony Left" reputation. Her canny cultivation of the media and her ability to spot public relations disasters before they reached the front pages established her as one of the most accomplished spin-doctors in local government.

She was then offered a communications post by Hert-fordshire County Council, where she was swiftly promoted to assistant chief executive.

Four years ago breast cancer was diagnosed and she began a battle to improve not only her own condition, but that of others. Because breast cancer is more common in

older women, the needs of sufferers like Wagstaff, who have careers and children, are often ignored or misunder-stood. She founded the Lavender Trust to put that right.

Despite being seriously ill. she was tireless in her efforts on behalf of the charity, which was set up in memory of her friend the journalist Ruth Picardie, whose own struggles with breast cancer were recorded in a series of articles in The

Wagstaff enlisted the support of pop stars such as Annie Lennox and Dave Stewart. and Pink Floyd's Dave Gilmour, and the designer florist Paula Pryke, and as a result the trust has raised £200,000 in less than eight months. Her own fight against cancer was the subject of a Channel 4

documentary. Bethany Wagstaff was born in Redruth, Cornwall, and educated at Falmouth Comprehensive. She came to London as a student at Goldsmiths College, where she became the first woman president of the union. On graduation, she worked for two Labour MPs, Chris Price and Chris Smith (now the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport). before working for the GLC.

She is survived by her husband, Jon Lansman, and by three children.

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ALEXANDER SMITH

CONTACT SOUGHT

Former Flight Lieutenant Alexander Smith born 21 Feb 1923, besød

Bad Harzberg/Germany 1946/48. Contact sought

1999
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Creditors of the above named Company which is being voluntize-fly wound up, are required on or before the Sist day of june 1999, to send in their full finenames and symmetric, full particulars of their debts or claims and the names and addresses for their Solicitors (if say), to the undersigned.

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PRINCE STREET, RESTOL ES1 428

BURY, CROWN HOUSE, 37 - 41
PRINCE STREET, RESISTOL BS1 498
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Dated this 4th day of Pebruar

ggert taxes

POWERS REUNITED WITH FAMILY

A sensation has been caused in Washington by the exchange, announced yesterday, of Captain Francis Gary Powers, the U2 pilot imprisoned by the Russians, and Mr Frederic Pryor, an American student detained by the East Germans, for Colonel Rudolf Abel, the Soviet spy sentenced in the United States in

The State Department is anxious to minimise the political significance of the exchange, a typical reflex action of the Department no matter who happens to be living in the White House, but the fact remains that reporters were awakened early

yesterday to be told the news at 3.15am. President Kennedy is back where he began a year ago when, at his first press conference. the release was announced of the surviving members of the crew of the RB47 reconnaissance aircraft shot down near or over Soviet territory. The exchange of Colonel Abel for Captain Powers and Mr Pryor cannnot necessarily be dismissed because last year's gesture was followed by the meeting of Mr Kennedy and Mr Khrushchev in Vienna, the division of Berlin, and the Soviet resumption of tests. Too much has happened recently and

ON THIS DAY

February 12, 1962 经

Francis Gary Powers's high-altitude spy-plane was shot down in May 1960 after flying over Soviet missile sites. Powers mitted acting under CIA orders and a Soviet court sentenced him to ten years' detention. The incident led to the collapse of the Paris summit meeting between President Eisenhower and Khrushchev.

if the State Department remains unim-pressed, the White House has a different view.

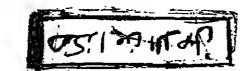
understanding of the other.

A senior official of the Department recently dismissed the White House efforts to improve contacts and communications with the Soviet Union as superficial. The object is a modest one . . . The Soviet view of the Powers exchange - that a wish to improve Soviet-American relations influenced the decision — is dismissed, for there is a belief that little can be expected until each country has a better

Captain Powers's release was largely effected by Mr James Donovan, a lawyer who defended Colonel Abel and in this instance was also acting for Powers's father, but the initiative was Mrs Abel's. She must have acted with the knowledge of the Soviet Government. Neither country seems to have benefited much from the actual exchange; Colonel Abel has been in prison for nearly five years, and therefore can have little useful ntelligence to divulge, and the Central Intelligence Agency has only one crucial question to ask of Powers.

Mr Khrushchev claimed that Powers's aircraft was brought down by a missile while flying at 68,000 feet, a claim suggesting that the Soviet air defence system is better than was thought. The belief here is that because of a technical fault known as a plane-out Powers lost altitude and was then forced down by

Powers is not regarded as a hero. Some people, brought up on a diet of television violence, are disappointed that he did not destroy himself with the weapons liberally furnished for that purpose by his employers, the CIA. His behaviour at his trial also did not commend him to those who expect the highest standards of behaviour in others, although he showed more dignity than those servicement brainwashed in Korea. At best he is an embarrassment to the Administration.



Betting link with soccer blackouts

Scotland Yard and the FA yesterday launched a nationwide investigation into sabotage of floodlights at football grounds by a

betting ring linked to the Far East. A nationwide search has been launched at football grounds for

a sophisticated device which disables floodlights. The police fear a number of the devices are already in place across the country and could threaten matches this season Page I

£7 million deal for new Barclays boss

Barclays Bank is to splash out more than £7 million on its new group chief executive, a former US Marine who was partly responsible for creating America's biggest bank. Mike O'Neill comes to Britain to a pay package that far outstrips anything offered by the rival High Street banks - and it is worth almost ten times as much as Barclays paid his predecessor...... Page 1

Vanessa fakes

26

The BBC suspended three programme makers and announced a sweeping review of all broadcasts involving members of the public after it emerged that four guests on Vanessa Feltz's daytime chat show were fakes Page 1

Kosovo force readled British tanks and other armoured vehicles are to be loaded onto ferries next week in preparation for possible peacekeeping action inPages 1, 18

Drugs on prison boy An eight-year-old boy was detained by police after he was found carrying drugs, thought to be heroin, during a visit to a pri-

Nazi horrors relived

The former British Rail ticket collector accused of war crimes faced a former schoolfriend who claims he saw him murdering 15 naked Jewish women with a sub-machinegun....

Gay sex sentences cut Five men convicted of taking part in gay sex parties that were recorded on home video have had their sentences reduced by the Court of Appeal...Page 6

Mellon's art legacy

Paul Mellon, the late American Anglophile, has left huge gifts to the US National Gallery and the British art centre that he founded at Yale University Page 7

Taxes divide town

The opportunity to set their own council tax in a revolutionary referendum has divided families and neighbours in the new town of Milton Keynes...

Welsh leadership

Tony Blair's new Labour campaign machine has resorted to Old Labour tricks in a last-ditch attempt to secure the election of Alun Michael as party leader in

Investments lost

People who are unable to manage their own savings are losing millions of pounds because of bad investments by the Public Trust Office, according to the National Au-

Waiting list directive Frank Dobson has told the National Health Service to cut the hospital waiting list by another

20,000 in three months ... Page 12

Fablus defends role Laurent Fabius, the former French Prime Minister, brushed aside allegations of manslaughter against him as he sought to distance himself from the Aids scandal over tainted blood Page 13

Gibraltar row widens

Tensions between Britain and Spain escalated sharply after the Government accused Madrid of breaking European law over its threat to stop accepting Gibraltar driving licences...

This Valentine's, say it with a whale

This Valentine's Day, minke rather than mink will be the gift of choice for the environmentally friendly romantic. The Hebridean Whale and Dolphin Trust on the Isle of Mull is offering ors the chance to adopt a 30ft minke whale for £100 and name it after their beloved. Cally Fleming, the trust's co-ordinator, said that whales were true romantics and very loyal ...



Subtlety went out the window in Cologne yesterday as women's day marked the final six days of street carnivals across Germany

Shell problems: Shell produced the worst results in its century-long history, reporting a 95 per cent fall in net income.... BT growth: BT's share price shot up by more than 10 per cent as the company revealed a dramatic rise in Internet use and the best growth in

EDS deal: Dick Brown, the former chief executive of Cable & Wireless. lived up to expectations of big changes at Electronic Data Systems, announcing a £10 billion deal with MCI WorldCom..... Page 21 Markets: The FTSE 100 index rose 118.3 points to 5888.5. The pound fell 0.35 cents to \$1.6253 and was unchanged against the euro at 69.50p. The sterling index fell to 99.9 from 100.0...

Tomorrow

Saturday

Times

The

Football: Despite his caretaker role, Howard Wilkinson now appears unlikely to be offered the chance to become permanent England manager, prompting speculation that Kevin Keegan may be of-Rugby league: Ellery Hanley, the

former Great Britain coach, is preaching what he practises in his new role at St Helens Page 46 Golf: Spectators were given a glimpse of the old and the new in Spanish golf when Severiano Ballesteros and Sergio Garcia played together in the Desert Classic in _Page 50

Tennis: Tim Henman moved into the quarter-finals of the Dubai Open with a 6-3, 7-6 victory over Jo-...Page 52

D'OH!

The new Simpsons comic strip

Richard Morrison in jali: "Art won't turn criminals into saints, but it can divert pent-up energies and festering resentments into positive self-expression"..... _Page 35

Pop 1: How does a complete unknown like Freddie Meyer plug his debut single? With a TV commercial, Caitlin Moran is amazed to discover. Plus Gay Dad - the view behind the hype... .. Page 36 Pop 2: David Sinclair reviews the

week's top album releases, including the Creatures and Blondie. Plus the rise and rise of Christian rock band de Talk.... ... Page 37 Auntie's war: Stephen Poliakoff's in-

vestigation of the BBC in the 1930s. Talk of the City, moves to London. and Benedict Nightingale finds the play timely...

bringing rain from mid-morning. Moderate to fresh SW wind. Max 5-8C (41-46F).

ISM Scottand, Glasgow, Moray Firth, NE & NW Scottand, Argyll: cloudy and wet morning but surny spells and only isolated showers by elternoon, Light SW wind veeing NW, Max 6-9C (43-48F).

Surviving: Joanne Webster was an idealistic mother. But she now admits to shoplifting in her battle to make ends meet.... Jane Shilling: "The way retailers encourage us to spend lots of money on Valentine's Day does a lot to foster the misunderstanding that ex-

Outer limits: Rob and Ewan want a wife. Will some girls join them in the Outer Hebrides? Page 21

Raymond Snoddy: "Alastair Campbell's lecture at the Fabian Society contained several serious points. He believes that the broadcast media still allow their agenda to be set for them by newspapers that have become ever more cynical and less willing to cover the important debates of the day " _____ Page 42

Outdoors bound: As the number of outdoor centres falls, the chances of inner-city children being offered a a chance to spend time away from home is shrinking fast Page 45

Like publicly-traded corporations. the IOC needs annual audits by outside examiners and strict conflictof interest rules. It also needs to clean out the management team that tolerated the bribe-taking culture. Only then can the IOC hope to rebuild its credibility.

The New York Times

Preview. The 1970s return in the new sitcom Days Like These (ITV. 8.30pm) Review: Animal "behaviourists". Whatever next? asks 1 Pages 50, 51 Hoggart...

Test Tube

Valentine's Day is a date for romance. Yet on the London Underground, Sunday will be a day of trouble as union members begin a 48-hour strike.... ----- Page 23

Failed in Wales

If Mr Blair's plans in Wales come unstuck it will be poetic justice. He has attempted to impose his man by underhand methods..... Page 23

Rock and a hard place Spain's sudden bullying of Gibraltar is a disprace a breach of EU law and a breach of international civility... Page 3

PETER RIDDELL

Like the Loch Ness monster, the threat of English nationalism is more discussed than sighted. Yet politicians of all parties are nervous about the reaction in England to Page 10 devolution...

SIMON JENKINS

This was the American Constitution rolled out on parade with all the overkill of a ballistic missile in Red Square. It may not terrify the enemy, but it certainly terrified Americans..

TIM HAMES

What the country wants is for the Conservative leadership to throw itself at the feet of single mothers, small businessmen, home owners, even Eurosceptic scribblers — 🐒 their soul out, beg for mercy and re-....Page 22 ally mean it....

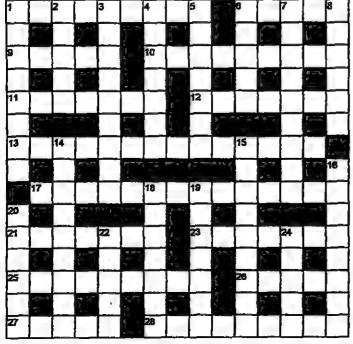
PHILIP HOWARD

There is no alternative medicine, from copper bracelets and sticking pins into oneself, from having pendulums dangled over one's belly to smells and bells, too silly not to attract some true believers... Page 22

Ulrica Murray Smith, joint master of the Quorn hunt; Lady Robson of Kiddington, former President of the Liberal Party: Beth Wagstaff, Lavender Trust founder Page 25

Institute of Directors on euro; Oxford University Press poetry list closure; morse code; the Church in the suburbs; King Hussein Page 25

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 21,025



1 They restrain workers about to

6 Fast and loose? Yes and no (5). 9 Voraciously devour bird (5). 10 Put on coat for protection and almost disappear in storm (9).

It Insect that may take to the woods

12 Sudden urge to have beans etc. on the motorway coming back (7).

13 He used to appear for a rubber in the palace (5.2,3,4). 17 One book to study and another to publish -- is that practical? (5-3-6).

25 Downfall of artist affected by drink (9).

23 Possibly bad sign for Corporation

21 Mat under glass vessel (7).

Solution to Puzzle No 21.024

CHABUT PARTUNG O E R E S N NCTUATE LUSCE E E E V C E U E
SOLDERINGIRON
O T S S A E H
ELYAKHTE STUDIO
F N V C E S O 27 Dim British king (5). 28 Miser converted to Church find ing forgiveness (9).

1 Evidence of the past of a woman with sex appeal, and mature (8). 2 Way of buying something reduced by 50%? Certainly not! (5).

3 Smooth flowing style in tale can become chaotic (9). 4 It allows artist to make a decent figure (3.4).

5 Mercenary in flesh is revolting

6 Vessel similar to drifter? (5) 7 Diver in craft going round lake on test (9).

8 Poured down and overflowed (6). 14 Report arrives in original wrapрет (9).

15 One who washes the French sort of uniform (9). 16 Tale-telling American statesman

18 Muse welcomed by rising artist. one producing "Bubbles"? (7). 19 Outline of unfinished madrigal reconstructed (7).

20 Mark of wound a black beetle made (6). 22 Drag queen's strong point (5). 24 Sudanese leader taking part in

horrid Hamitic rising? (5).

Times Two Crossword, page 52

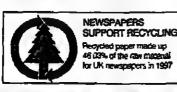
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Sun rises: 7.20 am Moon sets: 1.20 pm New moon Feb 16



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☐ General: Wates and western England will have a tot of low cloud and mist with light rain later in morning. Eastern England will be drier but mainly cloudy. A band of rain will spread acroes Scotland.
☐ London, SE England, E Anglia, Cent S England: mainly cloudy and dry with sunny spells later. Light S wind Max 5-8C (41-46F).
☐ Middlands, E, Cent N & NE England: chilly start but some sunny spells before could thickens. Light SW wind. Max 5-8C (41-46F).

Channel Islands, SW England, Wales, NW England, I. District, IoRt cloudy, some light ram. Light SW wind. Max 6-9C (43-487). Cl Bordors, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aber-deen, Orkney, Shetland: cloud building

TW. max best learnery.

If Cent Highlands: cloudy with snow on peals, rain lower down. Brighter later. Moderate SW wind. Max 3-6C (37-43F).

In Irestand: cloudy and dust will rain and Unit trestand: cloudy and dual well ast and crizzle but decent sunny spells developing. Light SW than NW. Max 7-9C (45-48F).

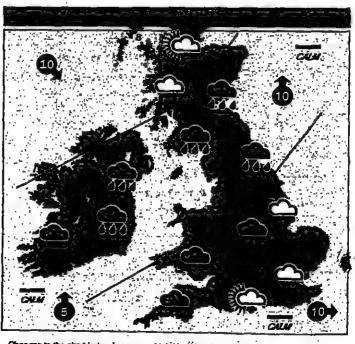
Republic of freitands duff, wet start, becoming drier, fresh or strong S winds decreasing. Max 8-10C (46-50F).

Outlooks milder, tain on Sunday.

athrs to 5 pm; b = bright, C = cloud, d = obszer, ds = clust atom;, du = cluf, f = lath; fg = log;, g = gales; h = hall r = rain, sh = shower; st = sleet; S = sun, t = thunder 0.02 0.01 0.02 0.01 Leeds
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001 001 002 Extremes: highest day max: Penzance, 10C (50F); lowest day max: Weinfleet, Lincolnehire, 2C (36F) highest rainfall. Almahama, Highland, 0.5m; highest sunshine: Eastbourne and Jessey 8.7m.





nges to the chart below from noon: high N will be absorbed by high O, and like high M n situr, low O will fill and remain slow-moving; lows R and S will run northeast, deepening



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GORE-TEX: fabric is extremely durable, waterproof, windproof and breathable. Rain and snow can't get in but perspiration can get but

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BT shares soar on back of Internet boom



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Bonfield: plenty of things to do

BY RAYMOND SNODDY

BT SHARES shot up by more than 10 per cent yesterday as the telecommu-nications company revealed a dramat-ic expansion of internet use and the

best growth in turnover since 1990. Sir Peter Bonfield, chief executive, said the internet now accounted for 15 per cent of all local call minutes and the percentage had more than doubled since last year.

This will probably go up to 25

per cent over the next year or so. It is the fastest growing part of the marketplace, said Sir Peter.

Internet calls helped to lift the inland telephone volume increase in the third quarter to 8 per cent compared with 6 per cent last time. Despite increasing competition, growth in international call volume accelerated to 9 per cent from 8 per cent, although price-cutting meant revenue

had been a 30,000 net loss of lines in quarter, compared with a 220,000 in the same period last year.

"More than 100,000 customers came back to BT in the third quarter and more than 280,000 in the nine months to December." Sir Peter said. The results were ahead of market expectations and BT shares rose

In the third quarter revenues rose by 14.7 per cent to £4.68 billion. In

against the cable industry and there the nine months the rise was 11.7 per cent to £13.3 billion.

Third-quarter profits dropped to £858 million before tax from £1 billion but that was almost entirely due to the payment of \$465 million (£287 million) in the third quarter last year after the break-up of BT's proposed merger with MCI. Over the nine months pre-tax profits rose from £2.58 billion to £3.45 billion. Thirdquarter earnings were 9.3p a share, making 25.6p for the nine months.

Sir Peter ruled out either a share buyback or an exceptional distribution to shareholders even though BT has gearing of just 6 per cent.

"We are not under any shareholder pressure. This is a dynamic, expanding industry and there are plenty of things to do," said Sir Peter. They include more opportunities in Japan, South-East Asia and the Indian sub-continent

Worst result for Shell in a century

By CARL MORTISHED, INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS EDITOR

SHELL produced the worst results in its century-long history yesterday, reporting a 95 per cent fall in net income, with its chairman admitting that his job is now on the line after the oil group allowed its competitors to overtake it.

Maarten van den Bergh, managing director of Royal Dutch/Shell, reported net income for 1998 of just \$350 mil-lion (£211 million) and a fourth-quarter loss of \$3.7 billion and \$4.4 billion in special charges. Mark Moody-Stuart, chairman of Shell Transport & Trading, said that a 53 per cent decline in fourth-quarter net income, before special items, to \$818 million was worse than results reported recently by US rivals. He said: "What is inescapable is that we have allowed the competition to overtake us."

But while he said there was a new determination within Shell. Mr Moody-Stuart indicated the pressure is growing on his position. "If we produce lousy results all this year, people will be hunting for my head," he said.

Despite the collapse in earnings, Mr Moody-Stuart said the company would continue to grow its dividend which is up 3 per cent to 13.5p for Shell Transport investors. The group is not under financial strain. We generate cash at a prodigious rate, around \$15 billion per year, 21/2 times greater than the dividends paid." The Anglo-Dutch company

was besieged on all fronts last year with a collapse in oil prices and chemical and refining margins. Mr Moody-Stuart painted a bleak picture of the outlook. He said: "We think \$10 oil will

continue for some time." Referring to the squeeze on investment in exploration, he pointed out that no significant uplift was in sight. "The effect of deferred investment has been to prevent the oil price from failing further." He said that Shell's exploration budget has been cut from \$1.5 billion to less than a \$1 billion with \$1.7 billion of capital expenditure on hold pending improvement in conditions.

However, he insisted that vive with low oil prices: "What you need at \$10 is access to low-cost oil. We have very substantial reserves in Nigera and we are working on access to the Middle East.

Oil products was the only sector to improve, with a 54 per cent gain in the fourth quarter mainly through the benefits of European restructuring. Shell's fourth-quarter net in-

come loss included \$4.4 billion of special charges relating to asset writedowns and redundancies highlighted in December when the company said it would sell 40 per cent of its chemical assets. Mr Moody-

half of the \$4 billion plus writedowns were attributable to Shell Oil, the group's US arm. These include a \$646 million writedown of Tejas Gas, acquired a year ago, and \$1.6 billion relating to sale and restructuring of Aera, the Californian joint venture and Altura, a Texas/New Mexico business, both onshore US produc-tion assets. Shell Oil has always jealously guarded its corporate independence despite osing its separate US share listing in 1984. However, Mr Moody-Stuart said there were no plans for a more complete integration of Shell Oil.

Rioting and communal vioience in Nigeria prevented Shell from increasing oil outnut last year but the company is still forging ahead with plans to invest \$8.5 billion in the African state. A decision i expected shortly on a multibillion-dollar expansion of its liquefied natural gas project. Shell's dependence on cheap Nigerian hydrocarbons will increase sharply over the next decade as production growth slows in the higher cost North Sea and US fields.

Shell's chemical business uffered a 50 per cent collapse in profit last year to \$452 miltion, with a severe decline in cracker margins and polypropylene margins. The company is selling a \$2 billion half-share in its Montell polypropylene business, acquired about a year ago.



Maarten van den Bergh yesterday announcing the profits fall

Barclays boosted by arrival of US banker

By CAROLINE MERRELL

BARCLAYS shares rose by 5 per cent yesterday as the City welcomed the appointment of Mike O'Neill, an American banker, to succeed Martin Taylor, who left abruptly at the end of last year.

The appointment ended two months of uncertainty at Barclays. The share price has been largely static since Mr

Taylor's departure. Mr O'Neill, unknown in the UK, has a history of leading corporate restructuring at banks in the US. Most recently he was involved in the £80 billion merger between Nationsbank and Bank of America, where he was in charge of wealth management".

He joins on a starting salary of more than £2 million, excluding share ontions. He will also benefit from £5 million of Barclays shares if he stays

Mr O'Neill said that it was unlikely that he would take any significant decisions at the bank for six months because he wanted to get to know the business first. He officially joins the bank on March 26. He refused to rule out the disposal of Barclays Capital, the bank's troubled investment banking subsidiary, but claimed that it could have a

role in the bank. Analysts also welcomed the appointment, with many believing that an internal candidate would not bring about the changes that are needed. Sir Peter Middleton, group

chief executive, said: "We considered around 20 candidates in total. All the executives were considered seriously. They have huge jobs to do, they have all been in their jobs for less than a year." Mr O'Neil was finally chosen from shortlist of four candidates.

Mr O'Neill said that he say the UK banking market follow ing the US, with a decline in business transacted through high street branches and increasing emphasis on PC banking and banking over the Internet. He said: "I am join ing a strong managemen team and together I am sure we will be able to build on the group's existing strengths."
Sir Peter said he did not be-

lieve that Mr O'Neill's appointment would lead to any immediate high level departures at the bank. He said that the bank vas continuine finance director. Mr O'Neill to be involved in the final selection for the post. Sir Peter said "Throughout his career Mike O'Neill has demonstrated his ability to improve the performance and increase the value of complex institutions."

Barclays refused to reveal the size of Mr Taylor's severence package from the bank. A spokeswoman said that it would be shown in the bank's report and accounts, which will be published after the results are revealed next week.

Commentary, page 29 Profile, page 31

Six-day losing streak ends 30

Business

Today

Upwardly mobile

Telecoms firms ready for £2bn auction of

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EDS announces £10bn MCI deal

FROM ANDREW BUTCHER IN NEW YORK

DICK BROWN, the former chief executive of Cable & Wireless, yesterday lived up to expectations of big changes at his new company, America's Electronic Data Systems, when he announced a \$17 billion (£10 billion) deal with MCI WorldCom.

The alliance with MCI, one of America's biggest telecoms companies, is Mr Brown's first big deal since arriving last month at EDS, the computer services company founded in 1962 by the American billionaire Ross Perot.

The core of the deal is the \$1.65 billion purchase by EDS of MCI Systemhouse, which specialises in running other company's computers, but the agreement is far broader. EDS and MCI will swap computer services and telecommunication outsourcing contracts, allowing both companies to concentrate on areas in which they have expertise.

MCI will pay EDS up to \$7 billion to run its computer and software systems through to 2010. In return, EDS will pay MCI WorldCom as much as \$8.5 billion for phone services over the same period. The deal also involves the two companies swapping up to 13,000 staff in the US and Canada. Since Mr Brown's appoint-

ment to EDS was announced in December, the company's shares have risen more than

PRESCRIPTIONS

THE National Health Serv ice is too important to be left in the hands of politicians and doctors so The Times has asked top business people to come to the rescue. How can the NHS recondle ever horses ing customer demands with a limited budget? Every day next week in Business News, business leaders will give their prescriptions for how the NHS can be reformed. They include Sir David Barnes, of AstraZene-ca, Sir Richard Syloss, of Giaxo Wellcome and Greg Dyke, of Pearson TV. Their radical thoughts will take the debate on the reform of the NHS to a new level. Health Secre-

tary Frank Dobson should be

paying attention.

Greenspan urges US bank reform

ALAN GREENSPAN, the Chairman of the US Federal Reserve Board, yesterday set himself on a collision course with the Clinton Administration by reaffirming his support for legislation to revamp American financial services laws that he sees as being

Testifying before the House of Representatives Banking Committee, Mr Greenspan said that it was crucial to overhaul Depression-era laws that prohibit banks, brokerage firms and insurance companies from entering each oth-

The legal barriers between different sectors of the financial services industry have put

the merger of Citibank and Travelers Group on hold. Unless soon repealed, the archaic statutory barriers to ef-

ficiency could undermine the competitiveness of American financial institutions." Mr Greenspan said, adding that changing the laws would greaty benefit consumers.

Mr Greenspan said that change was necessary because of the proliferation of new financial products that have increasingly combined the characteristics of banking, insurance and securities products into single financial instruments.

The Treasury fears that the proposed legislation will weaken its regulatory authority.

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for flawed demerger as Diller is rebuffed

By Jason Nissé

; FIVE directors of Lonrho, the mining eroup planning to rename itself Lon-min, are sharing bonus payments of almost £300,000 for work on the dernerger of Lonrho Africa last year, the latest

accounts reveal. The demerger has not been wholly successful, with Lonrho Africa shares plunging after their listing and the company facing an attempt to oust its chairman and two of its directors.

One of those directors, Stephen Walls, was given a £70,000 bonus for his work on the demerger, despite be paid \$2,000 in ling of holidays.

ing only a non-executive director. He was criticised earlier this week for working on a possible bid for Servisair while also being a non-executive director.

The largest beneficiary of the bonus payments was Nick Morrell, Lonrho's chief executive. He received £165,000, taking his total package to £630,000. though some of this bonus was also related to the sale of Princess Hotels. Sir John Craven, Lonrho's chairman, was given a bonus of £30,000.

The accounts, for the year to September 31 1998, also reveal that Terrence Wilkinson, the head of mining, was

· Lonrho chiefs' bonus Lycos bid war looms

FROM ANDREW BUTCHER IN NEW YORK

BARRY DILLER, the entertainment

and home shopping mogul, has run into trouble in his attempt to expand his shopping empire to the Internet. CMGI, the biggest shareholder in

Lycos, the Internet search directory. last night rejected a \$20 billion (£12.4) billion) merger bid by Mr Diller's USA Networks. The prospect of a bid battle sent Lycos shares up 20 per cent. Mr Diller plans to combine his

Home Shopping Network and tele-phone ticket seller Ticketmas...r in a

merger with Lycos. The combined company would have had revenues of \$1.5 billion in 1998.

Lycos shareholders would then own 30 per cent of the new company. But CMGI, which holds 20 per cent of Lycos, argues Lycos shareholders will get only a modest premium in the merger, despite the recent buying frenzy in

Mr Diller, 57, who went from working the mailroom of a Hollywood talent gency to heading a movie studio and a TV network, is a legendary figure in US media circles, who is leading the struggle to Anite TV with the Internet.

Increasing

numbers

are poor in

retirement

By Paula Hawkins

Work directive poised to keep lawyers busy

INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

THE WRANGLE over whether paperboys and papergirls will get paid for holidays under the European Working Time Directive is tricky for lan McCartney, the Industry Minister, whose brief includes em-

THE number of people facing

hardship in retirement has ris-

en sharply, warns a report out

today The Fleming Pension

Map of Britain estimates that 13 million people will face

hardship after their working

days end. This compares with

The study conducted by

Flemings Investment Trust

Services shows that women

are most likely to experience fi-

nancial difficulties when they

retire because they are more

likely to take career breaks

and because they live longer.

Two years ago 24 per cent of

working women would have

faced poverty in retirement.

That figure has now risen to

The Flemings report also

shows that men are worse off

in retirement than they used

to be. The percentage of men

who would live in comfort in retirement fell from 23 per

cent in 1997 to 17 per cent in

1999, while the proportion

who would retire below the

poverty line (defined by Flem-

ings as a pension which repre-

sents less than 25 per cent of fi-

The deterioration in the ex-

peried level of provision for

men is partly explained by the

fact that people are changing jobs more frequently. This is

one problem that the Govern-

cent to 16 per cent.

ten million in 1996.

ployment. He began his politi-cal life at 14 leading a paperboys' pay strike in Glasgow. Now his boss. Stephen By-

ers. Trade and Industry Secretary, is determined that paperboys should not be paid for holidays as per the directive.

The seemingly innocuous lemma is the tip of a potential paperboy/girl has hit a nerve as employers start to wrestle branded unclear and a recipe

ment's Green Paper sought to

tackle with its proposals for

the plans, saying that the re-

forms "will impact on the low-

est paid and those who have

suffered from career breaks".

it gave warning that "for some, it will only improve

their position slightly, especial-

ly if they are close to retire-

the number of people taking

out pension schemes to supple

ment the State's provision is

not rising quickly enough. "Despite several decades of en-

couragement of occupational

pension schemes, the coverage of schemes has risen only

The report points out that

the Government's plans "fo-

cus on the employed and offer

little for the self-employed",

another group which faces most hardship in retirement.

While 44 per cent of employ-

ees are not making sufficient

ment will rise."

The report concludes that

While Flemings welcomed

stakeholder pensions.

into force in October, Newsagents seeking guidance from the DTI were told that paper deliverers are covered if aged over 17. If younger, they are

not classed as workers. The teenage deliverers' diiceberg. The directive has been

for test-case proliferation as employers try to work out the parameters of the law.

The directive limits the working week to 48 hours and sets standards for employment, such as a right to holidays. All workers now have the right to three weeks of holiday, rising to four next year. This applies to part-time workers on a pro

many hours they do, if they have worked for their employer for 13 weeks. So, the directive's scope could be huge, taking in part-time shelf stackers in supermarkets, home and office cleaners and stand-in staff.

A judicial review is already looming: if successful, the challenge will broaden the applica-

tion even further. The holidays issue is but one. There is the concept of working time. Does it include travelling to work or time spent at business lunches? Are people covered if working abroad for a British firm?

These are the first shots in an exercise that will see many lawyers working way over the maximum working week.

PowderJect shares leap 23% after \$100m deal

BY PAUL DURMAN

POWDERIECT Pharmaceuticals has confirmed its position in the vanguard of Britain's with a \$100 million (£62 million) deal with Ares-Serono, the Swiss leader in infertility

Shares in the Oxford company, developer of a device to give drug injections without us-ing needles, jumped 23 per cent to a new high of 870p, valuing the company at £560 million. This was in spite of its de-cision to raise £52 million with a placing and open offer of shares at 670p.

Ares-Serono hopes to use the PowderJect device to deliver five undisclosed proteins being developed as therapies in fields of reproductive health and immunology.

Paul Drayson, PowderJect's chairman and chief executive, said the £52 million would allow the firm to develop its device for conventional vaccines for influenza, hepatitis B and diptheria/tetanus.

Tempus, page 30 PowderJeci's worrier, page 31



Paul Drayson says PowderJect intends to develop its device for conventional vaccines

PPP faces inquiry over referrals

contributions for their future. 64 per cent of self-employed people are not putting away lan Overgage, marketing manager at Flemings, said: "As interest rates are still falling, the number of older peopie who will not have sufficient income in their retire-

Office of Fair Trading investigation after 20 cardiologists wrote complaining that they he allowed to refer nationts to the new £45 million Heart Hospital in Harley Street. The consultants are claim-

of PPP's own four Central London hospitals, the Wellington, Harley Street Clinic, Princess Grace and Portland. The cardiplogists say that other leading health insurers, such as BUPA and Norwich Union, are hap-

PPP. the healthcare group ing that PPP is restricting their py to pay for patients to be reerred to the mean

The new hospital has been developed by Parkway Group Healthcare of Singapore. Its management board is chaired by Sir Richard Needham, the former Conservative minister, who said yesterday that PPP is

diology beds in London.

PPP denies it is restricting competition and said it is not including the Heart Hospital in its list of recommended hospitals because of the limited service it provides.

ABB seeks secondary listing of new shares

ABB Asea Brown Boveri, the Swiss-Swedish engineering group, hopes to catapult itself into the ranks of Europe's most popular companies by seeking a secondary listing of its new shares on the London Stock Exchange (Paul Armstrong writes).

The move is seen as a precursor to a Wall Street listing. ABB, which is capitalised at about \$20 billion (£12 billion). aims to clean up its four differ-

ent share structures Goran Lindahl, the ABB president, said that the sweeping changes were aimed at increas ing the liquidity of ABB shares, raising the prospect of the company being included in leading European indices.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Caborn tightens planning process

OUT-OF-TOWN retailers will face a tougher battle to open new stores after the Government yesterday rightened planning guidelines. The move by Richard Caborn, Minister for the Regions and Planning, forces local authorities to be more rigorous in ensuring that retailers prove they have looked at all available sites in town before they try to build new shops out of town. Retailers must also prove a need for the new outlet to be built. Extensions to existing sites will also have to be treated as new planning applications, Mr Caborn said in a parliamentary answer to Alan Johnson, Labour MP for Kingston upon Hull and West Hessle. That means retailers will not be able to secure permission for one site and then hope to bolt on extra capacity. Many large out-of-town retailers have built large extensions to existing stores in order to dodge pro-

hibitive planning policy.

Mr Caborn said the extra guidelines were intended to strengthen existing policy following recent litigation from would-be developers. He added that planning policy following recent litigation from would-be developers. "aims to sustain and enhance the vitality and viability of our existing town centres by focusing new investment, particularly for retail and leisure uses within city, town and

EU's gloomy forecast

EUROPE'S Monetary Affairs Commissioner yesterday said that the EU's forecast for European economic growth this year would probably be revised down at the end of March. Yves-Thibault de Silguy added that the extent of the downward revision to the forecast would depend on the level of confidence among European consumers. In October, the European Commission predicted 1999 growth for the European Union as a whole at 2.4 per cent and at 2.6 per cent for the 11 countries in the eurozone. The pext forecast is due on March 30.

Setback for duty-free

THE campaign to keep duty-free shopping alive was dealt a fresh blow yesterday as it emerged that an internal European Commission report has rejected pleas to extend the system for another five years. A leaked version of the report circulating around Brussels describes Britain's case for extending the duty-free system on the grounds of protecting jobs as "extremely weak". It also warns that any delay in scrapping duty-free shopping could leave the EU open to legal challenge from retailers. The report will be presented to European finance ministers on March 15, before they vote on whether to extend the system.

Wace transformation

WACE, the company which is set to fall into the hands of Schawk, the white knight from the US, after fighting off the unwelcome attentions of Photobition, said the restructuring of the company from a printing company into a graphic imaging business has been a success. The company yesterday announced its full-year results for 1998, booking a loss of £40 million against a £70 million loss last year — a loss per share of 56.4p. Schawk's agreed offer values the company at 70p a share. Derek Ashley, chief executive, said: "The outlook is positive for the group, but there is still work to be done."

Fraud director jailed

A FORMER personnel director of Veba. Germany's fourthlargest industrial company, was yesterday jailed for 33 months for defrauding it of DM240,000 (£85,714). Heinz Gentz. 67, was tried on four counts, including charges that he had work done on his private swimming pool and garden which he had paid by the company or its insurers, using false invoices. Gentz faces a second trial on charges that in 1994 he bought off the owner of a bathroom equipment and plumbing firm, who knew about the false invoices, by having Veba buy his company for far more than its market value.

Sytner buys Cooper

SYTNER GROUP, the car dealership chain chaired by Frank Sytner, the former British touring car champion, has bought the Cooper in the City BMW dealership from Inchcape for up to £2.1 million. Sytner, which is already the UK's largest seller of BMWs, is paying £715,000 immediately, with £1.3 million in deferred payments. It plans to relocate Cooper, though not too far from its current site in the north of the City

SAME UFRST

SPORT Vision WEEKEND metro

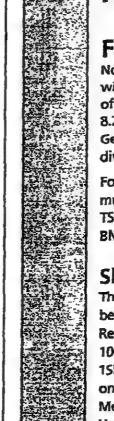
THE TIMES

Reitzle is tipped for Ford job

WOLFGANG REITZLE, the BMW executive ousted last week, is believed to be ready to join Ford, the US car manufacturer (Signid Aufterbeck writes). Herr Reitzle is tipped to become Ford's head of development in Europe, responsible

for the Asion Martin, Jaguar and Volvo brands. Both Ford and BMW declined to comment yesterday. On Wednesday Jac Nasser, Ford's chief executive, said at the Chicago Auto Show he did not want to comment while Herr Reitzle was still negotiating terms of his departure from BMW. "I think Wolfgang is a tremendous executive and leader." Mr Nasser said.

EXCHANGE RATES 8-4 \$42 19-16



The "Shell" Transport and Trading Company, **Public Limited Company**

Final Dividend 1998

Notice is hereby given that a balance of the Register will be struck on 23rd April, 1999 for the preparation of warrants for a Final dividend for the year 1998 of 8.2p per 25p Ordinary Share. If approved at the Annual General Meeting to be held on 7th May, 1999 the dividend will be paid on 14th May, 1999.

For transferees to receive this dividend, their transfers must be lodged with the Company's Registrar:- Lloyds TSB Registrars, The Causeway, Worthing, West Sussex BN99 6DA, not later than 3 p.m. on 23rd April, 1999.

Share Warrants to Bearer

The Coupon to be presented for the above dividend will be No. 203 which must be deposited at Lloyds TSB Registrars, Corporate Actions, Ground Floor, P.O. Box 1000, Antholin House, 71 Queen Street, London EC4N 1SL (not later than 23rd April, 1999 to receive payment on 14th May, 1999) or may be surrendered through Messieurs Lazard Frères et Cie, 121 boulevard Haussmann, 75382, Paris Cedex 08.

> By Order of the Board Miss J.E. Munsiff Secretary

Shell Centre, London SE1 7NA 11th February, 1999 STATESS ROLL planning pro

office to the

T o wonder Barclays had to concentrate its search for a new chief executive in the United States. There would be few UK contenders able to put up £5 million to secure themselves a job. This arrangement gives a whole new meaning to the concept of sign-

ing-on fees.

But Michael O'Neill does boast other qualifications for the role apart from a healthy bank balance. He has practical experience in retail banking and asset management and, judging by the entrenched opposition that Martin Taylor encountered, his experiences working with the Marines intelligence service during the Vietnam war will also be

Mr O'Neill is being hailed as someone who can engineer change without occasioning animosity. If he could do that, then he probably deserves his salary package and more. But a quick recce of the organisation may persuade him that taking out, at an suade him that taking out, at an early stage, a few of the potential obstacles to change would be a wise move. Mr Taylor spent too long trying to persuade people within the bank to work with him rather than against him.

The first task awaiting Mr

O'Neill is to appoint a finance di-rector with whom he sees eye to eye. His predecessor interviewed hordes of potential candidates but found none suitable. The City would be reassured if the incoming American were able to settle on someone who was al-

Ex-marine must battle for change

ready a known and respected figure in UK corporate life, if not necessarily in banking. Perhaps the signing on fee could be waived to get the right person. Mr O'Neill does not look like

the sort of person who will be bounced into taking any prema-ture decisions on the structure of the group, despite murmurs from the City that institutional in-vestors would like to see the retail bank demerged from what remains of Barclays' foray into investment banking. Mr Taylor could make a fine intellectual case for the split, but the reality is more blurred. The treasury operations for intellectual case are published. ations, for instance, are ravelled together, to the mutual benefit of both sides.

Despite its agonies of late, stumbling over almost every available banking banana skin around the world, Barclays remains one of Britain's leading retail banks, and it is on that which Mr O'Neill can build. If he can keep the two internal candidates for the chief executive's job on side, it will be to his advantage. They have presumably noted that he only has to stay three years to trigger his jackpot payout so, at least for one of them, stardom may yet be possible.

They will, however, have to keep on the right side of someone

COMMENTARY by our City Editor

other than Mr O'Neill. The formidable Sir Peter Middleton now moves into the chairman's seat at Barclays. The former Treasury mandarin and BZW chairman will be rather more pro-active than the hapless Andrew Buxton. Even Sir Peter's admirers refer

to him as Machiavellian. After a few months as acting chief executive of Barclays, he will have clear views on how the job should be done.

Messing up the iobs market

orget the millennium bug just for a moment. The bugs in the European Working Time Directive are already appearing four months af-ter the Brussels-inspired reform first came into effect.

The fuss over paid holidays for paperboys and papergirls is de-lightfully nonsensical, unless you happen to be one of those who may lose their part-time job as a result. The bigger impact is

likely to be felt in encouraging more people to work for agencies or as freelance self-employed. Giving more rights to those

who have least is certainly a worthy cause but the implications have not been fully thought through. If agency or casual work garners the same perks as the once sought-after staff job, at higher rates of pay, the National Health Service will soon find itself needing even more agency nurses, boosting its pay bill for

no good reason.

Anecdotal evidence suggests that holiday rights, for instance, are giving agencies a chance to jack up their charging rates.

There are shortages to exploit in schools as well as bospitals.

At least ministers can claim that these principles were im-posed by the EU. There would be no excuse for failing to work through the detailed application of the minimum wage or of the complex provisions of the Fair-ness at Work Bill. These are generated at home, after long gesta-tion through Labour's policy development process, the election manifesto and long preparation in Whitehall.

The minimum wage is already in danger of killing off the au pair and halting the growth of home childcare. These effects may not have been intended.

Fairness at Work aims to take the protection of part-time and agency workers much further than the Brussels directive. Have ministers worked out the implications of promoting these ways of

For private employers, en-hanced rights for maternity and paternity leave are causing consternation in some quarters, not least rights to take extended additional unpaid leave. People on low incomes cannot afford to take long unpaid leave. Those affected are likely to be key senior employees who can only be re-placed at enormous short-term cost. The smaller the employer covered by the law, the harsher the impact of these seemingly civilised provisions.

Even new Labour understand-

ably feels it has obligations to act fast in this area. Like the Tories, however, it would do better to move one step at a time and digest the consequences.

To put things in perspective, Sudan's Government finally started to admit yesterday that slavery is rife and uncontrolled there.

Towns with a hard centre

The Minister for the Regions and Planning, Richard Caborn, has made no secret of his distaste for out-oftown development. Consumers may like to hop in their cars and head for the retail parks and regional shopping centres but Mr Caborn wants to direct them right back into town centres. Now he has announced a further toughening of the planning regime aimed

at ensuring that he gets his way. The onus is now on retailers to prove that they have looked at all available sites in town, and found nothing to suit, before any out-of-town development can be contemplated. Since, over time, the focus of any town centre tends to move, there are few that do not have a supply of empty retail space, dejected, covered in fly-posters and long de-

serted by shoppers. If Mr Caborn hopes that retailers will be persuaded to forsake the retail parks to recolonise these barren areas, he is doomed to disappointment. Unless, that is, he can persuade local authorities to back his crusade with cash and plenty of car parks. Only if considerable investment is channeled back into town centres will the retailers follow.

In the meantime, those schemes that won planning permission in the pre-Caborn days can only benefit from his clamp-down. He will succeed in doing for retail property what the Bar-ber ban did for offices. The investors who have just taken stakes in Bluewater Park must be very grateful to the Minister. The development opens its doors next month and customers will love it.

The wages of sin

RESEARCH by Flemings produces some frightening statistics on the millions for whom retirement will bring poverty. The Government knows but, even allowing for the stakeholder pension and the birth of Lisa, it is avoiding the real issue. Unless the state pension rises or people are compelled to save more, millions of elderly people will live in poverty. We hear much of those who were persuaded to opt out of occupational schemes and put their money into private pensions. Given the choice, however, many took their money out of occupational schemes - and spent it.

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Airtours on lookout for acquisitions

By Sarah Cunningham

AIRTOURS, the travel group that has built up a £500 milacc transform lion cash pile, is continuing to look for acquisitions in Europe and North America and sees scope for further consolidation in the UK.

However, Harry Coe, managing director, refused to comment on recent speculation about a possible link between Airtours and Thomson Travel. Airtours recently raised £300 million through a consolidat-ed bond issue, £50 million more than it initially expected.
Altogether it has about £500 million in cash and almost no debt on its balance sheet.

Mr Coe said that UK bookings for the summer were 5 per cent ahead of last year. which the company believes is ahead of the market, which is more or less flat. For next winter, bookings are up 20 per cent, driven by demand for holidays over the millennium. Despite higher prices, long-haul flights and holidays in the Canaries are proving particularly popular.

company went through a rough patch last year, book-ings for next winter are 10 per cent ahead. However, Canada reported increased losses as a result of overcapacity. The company reported improved trading at its US businesses. However, total bookings for this winter are down 7 per cent from last year in North America due to cuts in capacity. In the first quarter, ending

December 31, the company made a seasonal pre-tax loss of £19.4 million (£17.3 million loss), despite a 40 per cent increase in turnover to £708 million, mainly reflecting acquisi-tions in Scandinavia. The increased loss was attributed to the company's expansion of its tour operating activities.

The UK companies acquired last year, Direct Holidays. Bridge Travel Group Cresta Holidays and Panorama Holidays, all made winter losses, as expected. The existing businesses all saw improved results.

Quarterly loss for Seagram

BY OUR CITY STAFF

SEAGRAM, the drinks and entertainment company, has reported a \$226 million (£139.5 million) second-quarter loss after taking a \$405 million pre-'ax charge on its \$10.4 billion acquisition of PolyGram, the music and film group. Revenues were \$3.3 billion, against \$3 billion a year earlier.

Before the restructuring

charge, Seagram's net income from continuing operations was \$18 million, against \$58 million a year earlier, excluding a charge on wine and spirits operations in Asia.

The Universal Filmed Entertainment subsidiary, which now includes PolyGram, had losses of \$63 million, against a \$98 million profit, as its films struggled at the box office. Edgar Bronfman, Seagram president, said he was disappointed by the film group's performance, but said that it had focused on "minimising risk".

Overhaul at Scottish Eastern

By GAVIN LUMSDEN

SCOTTISH Eastern, the £800 million investment trust, has issued radical reconstruction proposals that could pave the way for a fairer treatment of shareholders in the moribund £60 billion trust sector.

After months of secret negotiations with institutional investors and private client stockbrokers, Sir John Kemp-Welch, its chairman and former head of the Stock Exchange, announced that the trust would go into voluntary liquidation, ending its 75-year history. In its demise, however, it will spawn four new investment funds.

The first of these, the Mar tin Currie Portfolio Investment Trust, will be a "son-of Scottish Eastern" that will follow the same investment objectives and is designed to appeal to the army of private shareholders who own up to 40 per cent of Scottish Eastern.

Arnault makes Gucci hold special meeting

By Fraser Nelson

BERNARD ARNAULT, chairman of LVMH, is forcing Gucci to hold a special shareholder meeting so he can put one of his colleagues on to the board of the Italian fashion house. M Arnault, who controls

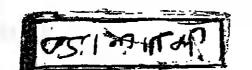
 34.4 per cent of Gucci shares. has used his recently built stake to requisition the meeting. He wants to vote Umberto Guid, a former LVMH direcfor, on to Gucci's supervisory poard within the next six weeks, refusing to wait for Gucci's next shareholder meeting. City analysts believe that the move could sour relation-

ships between LVMH and Gucci, possibly leading to a hostile takeover bid for Gucci. Since LVMH disclosed its interest in Gucci last month, M Arnault has emphasised his

admiration for the company and for Torn Ford, its head of design. It is understood that M Arnault wants to sell Gucci clothes through his company's DFS chain of luxury shopping malls. He could achieve this without a full takeover. LVMH, owner of Christian

Dior, is capitalised at €18.7 billion (E26.9 billion) and Gucci at \$4.08 billion (£2.51 billion).







MICHAEL CLARK

Investors return to end six-day losing streak

INVESTORS were back on song with share prices staging a comeback yesterday ending six days of consecutive falls. A much-needed revival on

Wall Street, encouraged by some bullish comments on the US economy from Alan Greenspan, chairman of the Federal Reserve, enabled London to end on a high note. The FTSE 100 index closed at its best of the day with a rise of 118.3 to 5.888.5 as turnover topped 1.2 billion shares. The FTSE 250 in-

dex also put on 29.4 to 5,187.8. Share prices had already begun to build up a full head of steam, fuelled by better than expected results from British Telecom. It was the best performer among the top 100 with a leap of 1011sp, or 11 per cent. to £10.09\(\frac{1}{2}\) — just 2p below its record high.

Elsewhere in the telecom sector, Orange added 31p to 847p. on the back of a "buy" recommendation from Merrill Lynch, the broker. Rival Vodafone was also in demand climbing 29%p to £10.93% cheered by some bullish comments from Warburg Dillon Read, the broker, which rates the shares a "buy".

The decision of Federal-Mogul to pull out of the bidding left LucasVarity down 9p at 279%p. This now leaves the way open for rival US automotive group TRW to proceed with its offer of £4 billion.

Lloyds TSB was steady ahead of results later today with the price adding 265p at 78415p. Pre-tax profits are forecast to come in 6 per cent lower at just less than £3 billion.

'Alliance & Leicester rose 40p to 802p. Abbey National 72p to £12.13 and Woolwich 12%p to 334%p as HSBC Securities, the broker, labelled them a "trading buy". It is also keen on Halifax, up 27p to 736p, along with Dresdner Kleinwort Benson which has raised its recommendation from "hold" to "add".

BSkyB, the satellite broadcaster, 40 per cent owned by News International, owner of The Times, continued to make headway with a rise of 34p to 508%p on the back of this week's better than expected subscriber numbers for its digital service. BT Alex Brown. the broker, rates the shares a strong buy" and has raised

its target price to 585p.

However, bearish comments from BT Alex Brown left Allied Domecq 715p lower

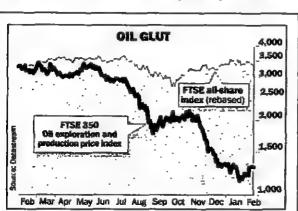


Tony Hales, chief executive of Allied Domecq, saw shares fall 715p to 45lp on the back of bearish broker sentiment

at 451p. Not only are fundamental prospects deteriorating, but the management has only limited solutions with which to unlock value. The only option left open to the management would be a share buyback.

Bass fell 201/2p to 7861/2p and Whithread 371/p to 869p amid fresh claims that both brewers are about to hit the takeover trail. Bass is being tipped as the likely suitor for Michael Grade's First Leisure, down 44:p at 222p, while Vaux Group, 3p easier at 298hp, is seen as Whitbread's target.

Inn Business was unchanged at 60p, still awaiting the terms of a bid approach made in January, from rival Enterprise Inns, steady at 3781-p. Enterprise is believed



THE loss of 400 jobs at BP Amoco this week and another drop in profits recorded at Shell gives some idea of the depth of the crisis facing the oil industry.

Industry analysts take the view that there is little sign of recovery and that further consolidation may be needed before the glut of oil overhanging the market

can be cleared. Oil shares reflected this concerns yesterday. Shell re-treated 6%p to 332%p, BP 5%p to 862%p. Lasmo 3%p to 108%p, while its proposed merger partner Enterprise Oil also slipped 74p to 2424p. Even Monument Oil & Gas, which has been touted as a potential target for Enterprise should the

down fell 34:p to 394:p. Lehman Brothers, the US securities house, warms that until the current overhang in inventories is brought down, oil prices will remain must cut production by a further one million barrels a day at its meeting in Vienna next month.

to have put a package of 170
pubs up for sale, proceeds of
which would help to fund a
bid for Inn Business.
Speculative buying was be-
Speculative out in a ter

hind the rise of 10p to 1814:p SIG. A total of 634,557 shar changed hands in the builde merchant in what is traditio ally a thin market. The shar have slumped from the 2751 level since last July.

The speculators were als chasing BICC higher. The of takeover favourite rose 415p 8514p on claims that a bid ma be just round the corner. BPB Industries shaded

to 2331:p after buying back two million of its own shares at 230p. Tomkins eased 34p to 234%p after buying back 6.32 million shares at prices ranging from 231p to 237p.

Carpetright, the retailer headed by Lord Harris, was 24p better at 295p. Sir Harry Djanogly, a director, has acquired 114,200 shares at 279p. He now holds 1.94 million shares, or 2.51 per cent.

The chairman of Baldwins Lo dustrial has splashed our nearly EIS.000 topping up his holding. Richard Baldwin has bought 10,000 shares at 148p taking his holding to 8.08 million, or ZI per cent. The price responded with a rise of 74p to 1534p.

Superframe was a touch firmer at 21%p after Michael Montague, chairman, picked up 50,000 shares at 21p taking his total holding to 110,000, or 1.38 per cent.

Calluna firmed 2%p to 29%p amid claims that US sales of its Hardwall anti-virus system for computers were picking up. GILT-EDGED: The bond market failed to recover early losses despite a late rally. The worst falls were seen among longer-dated issues while shorts were encouraged by prospects for further rate cuts following gloomy comments by Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England.

In the futures pit, the March series of the long gilt finished 2p cheaper at £118.51 as 23,000 Among conventional issues, Treasury 8 per cent 2021 ended 32p down at £150.16, while Treasury 7 per cent 2002 shed 4p at £107.53.

NEW YORK: US shares re bounded as the attractive prices of technology and financial stocks lured the bulls back. At midday the Dow Jones industrial average was up 73.38 points to 9,250.69.

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Coming out of its Shell

SHELL OIL, the American arm of the Anglo-Durch group, leads a charmed life. Shell Oil is to keep its corporate structure and head offices while the walls of its European counterparts are torn down in the name of efficiency. But if Mark Moody-Stuart, the chairman, is to bring off the kind of revolution at Shell that so transformed BP, then Shell Oil's special treatment needs to be rethought. If Shell's European baronies are to be pushed aside for the sake of better control, the American cousins

If Shell takes the firm grip required 1999 could be a turning point for the company and the shares that have performed so disappointingly for so long. But Big Oil can no longer pretend to be a growth investment standing alongside pharamcueticals and telecoms. It is, however, well placed to perform as a cost-cutting, cash generating, utility. Shell has huge reserves of low-cost oil and gas in Nigeria, Oman and The Netherlands that will enable it to pay its way, even in under \$10 a barrel oil. scenarios. Meanwhile, Shell also has large exposure downstream. Profits in refining and petrochemicals will, in theory, benefit from a prolonged period of cheap crude oil and gas. BP has worked off almost all of its fat and

bought some more in Amoco to carry on playing the cost-cutting game. But Shell is only just beginning, which presents investors with a promising long-term investment opportunity. Moreover, the downside is limited given the dividend strength. At 33215p the gross yield tops 5 per cent. Shell has the assets; it just needs the imagi-

nation to make more of them. Buy on the assumption it does.

British Telecom

should be treated likewise.

BRITISH TELECOM is also one of the few players which operates across the warterfront in mobiles, fixed-line, voice and data transmission. This gives BT critical mass, but it also means that it is the easy target for upstart specialists who invade and exploit

the more profitable niches. BT's profit margins are under constant attack. In being so spread, BT runs the risk of playing second best to the ar-rivistes. It may also be left behind by newer ideas and newer technology, although last week's £5 billion affirmation of network investment intent shows that BT is responding to competitive threats.

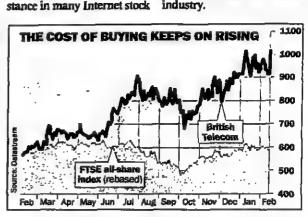
But while BT may never be a superstellar performer, and its strategy appears confused at times, it has one most alluring attribute: it is handsomely profitable. In a stock mar-

ket sector where making money is an optional activity, that is a boon.

BT played to the current stock market enthusiasm for Internet stocks yesterday. boasting about how much of its telephone line capacity is taken up connecting the rapidly enlarging constituency of webheads. Yet while the sub-

stories does not bear close examination, BT clearly earns hard cash. Internet activity requires telephone line usage. and that brings BT revenue in a concrete, direct and un-

Hold BT shares for steady and reliable but not necessarily exciting or market-beating exposure to this high growth industry.



PowderJect

POWDERJECTS \$100 million collaboration with an enthusiastic Ares-Serono proves, if proof were needed. that last year's \$300 million deal with Glaxo Wellcome was not a one-off. More to the point, it shows that the British company's needle-free injection gun really is as exciting as it seems. With strong patents and good branding. PowderJect has the chance to capture a big slug of the sums spent on injectable drugs and

This has not gone unnocent surge to 870p, the shares are now nearly five times the 185p flotation price of only 20

months ago.
Yet the first Powderlest product, carrying an anaesthetic, will not reach the market for another two years. The exuberance of the anticipation is creating some nervthe PowderJect story so far

bears an uncomfortable resemblance to the up phase in British Biotech and Biocompatibles. PowderJect is even using its strong share price to raise money, in this case £50

But PowderJect's Paul

Drayson deserves better than to be cynically tarred. For one thing, he could have raised his money at an even higher price if he had dealyed the fundraising exercise until after the Ares-Serono deal was known. Moreover, he shows little sign of hubris, is on the lookout for pitfalls and still owns 22 per cent of the compagreat British success story. But the current share price is more than up with events.

THE new broom at Cookson is making this industrial materials company look a lot more attractive. Under Stephen Howard there is a greater sense that the business is being run to maximise

profitability rather than maximise the number of pies it has its fingers in. If the costcutting measures unveiled yesterday are successful in lowering the cost base by £14.5 million a year, it will put Cookson in with a chance of restoring its profitability to the levels of 1997 without much help from its tricky markets.

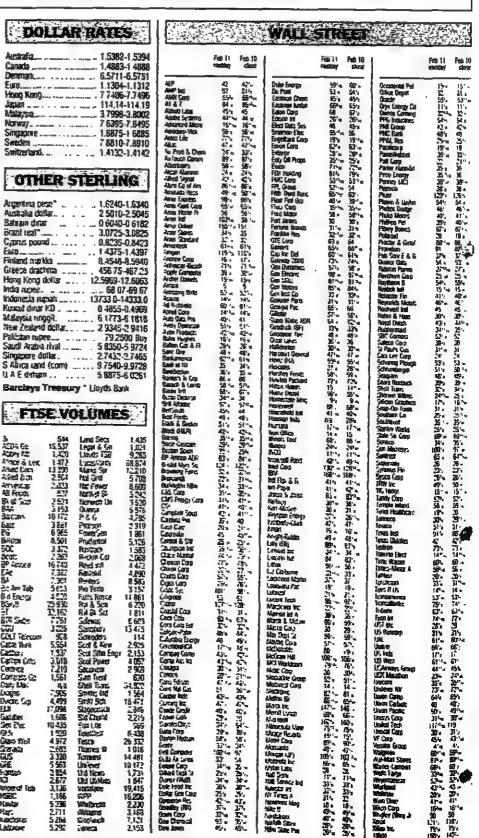
But while Cookson is shaping up internally, it remains vulnerable to external forces. Cookson's major customers steel foundries and electronic circuitry fabricators such as producers of computer and are not buoyant. Moreover. even if world GDP growth returns strongly Cookson will ness and maintain margins of profitablity.

The motivation to hold, or perhaps even buy, hangs on the safe-looking 8 per cent dividend yield.

EDITED BY ROBERT COLE

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Out of its Barclays banks on intelligence expert

B arclays' executive team will be pleased to know that Mike O'Neill, the man charged with the task of reversing the bank's flagging fortunes, never actually killed anyone in his stint as a

US marine. Instead, Mr O'Neill prefered to serve out the Vietnam war in intelligence, from the relative safety of home territory. "I joined the intelligence service to avoid conscription." he ex-

Until yesterday, the 52-yearold was all but unknown in City banking circles, despite a 5-year career in the industry. He had spent 20 years with Continental Bank before overseeing its merger in 1994 with Bank of America, which he in turn was instrumental in merging with Nationsbank — an E80 billion deal to form BankAmerica, the largest

Banking analysts said yes-

City encouraged by outsider's arrival, says Caroline Merrell

terday that they were encouraged by Mr O'Neill's background in corporate restructuring and mergers and acquisitions. One said: "We are quite glad that they did not choose an insider, as that would mean that everything would carry on as it is."

Mr O'Neill is forecast to ring the changes at the bank, in par-ticular dealing with the prob-lems at Barclays Capital, the bank's investment banking subsidiary, which has admitted losing £250 million in Russia.

Robin Down, an analyst at ABN Amro, said observers were heartened by Mr O'Neill's experience on the consumer retail side of the industry. His job title at Bank of America before taking on the Barclays role was president of "principal investing and wealth management", which

in UK terms means he was in charge of looking after highnet-worth retail customers. David Coulter, chief executive officer of BankAmerica, who has worked with Mr O'Neill for five years, said: "He has all the requisite leadership skills needed, and will be keen to raise shareholder value."

Mr O'Neill said that he had not arrived at the bank with any particular corporate strategy in mind. He said: "I want to get to know the bank and how it all works, which will take around six months."

His background, with its heavy emphasis on corporate restructuring, however, immediately kicked off a spate of takeover speculation. Barclays has at various times during the past two years been linked to mergers with Abbey Nation-

"Clearly a lot has already been done in terms of consolidation in the UK." said Mr O'Neill, adding that all options for the future of the bank would be considered.

The bank is looking at the corporate activity in European banking with interest — earlier this month the French banks Société Générale and Paribas announced a merger. which almost immediately followed an annoucement of a merger between the Spanish banks Santander and BCH.

ir Peter Middleton, group chief executive, however, argues that Barclays was already well represented in Europe.

Mr O'Neill did, however. rule out breaking up the bank into corporate and retail - a plan that is believed to have

been part of the reason for the abrupt departure of Martin Taylor, the former chief executive, at the end of last year. He said: "Never in my 25 years as a banker have I seen a demerger. although there is alor of

talk about it." Sir Peter added: "We are not looking at it. We cannot demerge Barclays. Everything is totally interlocked."

On the thorny question of Bardays Capital, problems at which are also thought to have contributed to Mr Taylor's exit. Mr O'Neill was fairly opaque. He said: "Investment banking is cenainly a corporate franchise. It is all a question of managing the risk of the company. We will be watching it carefully, but my starting position is that it does

He said he will move "chil-

dren, family, dogs and every-thing" to the UK for the job, which he starts on March 26. It is not the first time he has lived in the UK, having spent eight years in London working as country manager for the Continental Bank. "In some ways it is like coming

home." he said.

Mr O'Neill graduated from Princeton University with a degree in European civilization and pursues an interest in international relations as a trustee of the World Affairs Council of Southern California. He lists his interests as golf, exercise, jogging and "anything to keep myself a bit in shape".

Sir Peter will step down as group chief executive when Mr O'Neill joins Barclays, Sir Peter will continue as deputy chairman and a director until he succeeds Andrew Buxton when he retires as chairman and director at the annual meeting on April 23.

operating system based on its

while, other big US technology

companies, such as 3Com and

Oracle, are also sniffing around

George O'Conner, an IT analyst at Granville, the broker,

says: "The history of the con-

sumer market shows that it will

go one way: just look at VHS

and Betamax. At present, all the

noise is being made by Sun and

and more frantic, Meanwhile,

confusion has also surrounded

the political side of the auction-

ing process. In Britain, the un-

timely resignation of Peter Man-

delson, the former Secretary of

State for Trade and Industry,

and the subsequent reshuffle of

Barbara Roche from the DTI to

the Treasury, has brought de-lays to the timing of the auction. Although the Government is

desperate to see Britain become

the first country in the world to

introduce UMTS licences -

thus boosting its image as the

"information centre of the

world" - many industry ex-

Stephen Byers, Mr Mandel-

son's replacement to get to grips with the issues quickly

enough. Mr Wills has faced the

same scepticism. However, he

claims he will not be sleeping

on the job. "I have to under-

stand this. There are 24 hours

in every day, and I will use eve-

ry single one of them."

Thile such uncer-

tainty remains,

deals are likely to

get more frequent

Microsoft, not Psion."

the market.

Worrier who does not get easily needled

When he heard that intel's Andy Grove had called his autobiography Only the Paranoid Survive, he says he "just had to read it".

As chairman and chief exec-utive of PowderJect Pharmaceuticals, Dr Drayson's biggest worry is that complacency or negligence will prevent his company from establishing an Intel-like stranglehold on a new market: medical injections that avoid the pain of using a needle and syringe. He believes PowderJect has a huge opportunity. He wor-ries to make sure the compa-

So far, there are few signs of it. PowderJect yesterday an-nounced a \$100 million (£61 million) deal with Ares-Serono, the Swiss company best-known for infertility treatments. That pushed Powder-Ject's high-flying shares up by more than a fifth, and put a value of £120 million on the 22 per cent stake held by Dr Drayson and Elspeth, his wife and co-founder.

The company established its credentials last March when Glaxo Wellcome adopted the PowderJect technology to deliver a new genera-Potentially, the Glazo collaboration is worth more than \$300 million to PowderJect.

PowderJect is aiming to transform the injection of medicines. Its device is a kind of supersonic gun, that fires powdered medicines into the skin, painlessly and without the use of a needle.

Originally developed by Brian Bellhouse at Oxford University, the technology promises better performance from a reduced dose, because of its ability to deliver the drug or vaccine to precisely the correct depth of skin.

Like most good inventions, it's a simple idea with obvious attractions. Best of all. PowderJect appears to have a strong patent position that shuts out copycat com-

he device is about the size and shape of a pump-action toothpaste dispenser. The three main components are a small helium cylinder, a drug cassette and a "convergent-divergent" nozzle that controls the velocity of the mi-

which the drug is attached.

An impressive list of clients includes Zeneca, Pfizer, the vaccines arm of Rhône Poulenc and Roche's Boehringer Mannheim. But the first commercial use of the PowderJect device will be with the anaesthetic lido-

paul Drayson is a worri-er — and he knows it. caine and alprostadil, an im-potence treatment currently potence treatment currently given by needle injection. And PowderJect Lidocaine will not reach the market for another two years.

Some biotech industry leaders believe that means the company's stock market value of £550 million looks excessive. Too many UK biotechs have enjoyed a brief honeymoon before reality set in, in the form of clinical trial failures, management prob-lems and other setbacks.

What is reassuring about Dr Drayson is his recognition that PowderJect still has much to prove. Hence his worrying. He is establishing a team from across the company to alert him to any threats or flaws that he may have overlooked.

He says: "You only get one chance to convince the pharmaceutical industry that your technology works,"

r Drayson's PhD was in robotics and he is focused on PowderJect as a business rather than as a clever device. While in his 20s, he established a health snacks business for Trebor, and led a management buyout that produced the initial funding for

He and Robin Norris, his chief operating officer, dis-play impressive attention to detail. He emphasises the importance of establishing PowderJect as a brand, to sustain the business after its patents expire in 2014.

Dr Drayson is adamant that PowderJect should be a transatiantic company, and it has operations in California and Wisconsin. He says: "I don't want to make this a British company because it's a real turn-off for Americans."

Patients feel and hear they are being given a Powderlect injection, but (having tried it) the sensation is not unpleasant. The noise is quieter than

uncorking a bottle of wine. Dr Drayson also frets about his position as chairman and chief executive — a dual role that he dearly wants to retain. PowderJect's nomination committee, is re-

viewing the issue. Dr Drayson's desire to know where he may have got it wrong suggests he is far from being a powercrazed autocrat and his press the issue at the moment, However, Dr Drayson knows the real test of PowderJect's management will come when it suffers its first serious setback. He's worrying about it already.

PAUL DURMAN

Telecoms firms get ready to bid for upwardly mobile licences

Chris Ayres

reports on the lead-up to a

£2bn auction for

new networks

etween now and April 2000, one of the largest Government auctions in history will take place, raising an estimated £2 billion pounds for the Treasury. and potentially creating thou-

The auction will be for licences to operate "third generation" mobile phone networks, and will be followed by similar auctions throughout Europe, America and Asia. Uhimately, these networks will allow mobile phones to perform tasks that would have been dismissed as science fiction ten years ago. In Berlin this week. Siemens unveiled a third generation mobile phone that doubled as a videophone and Inter-

Third generation networks will be based on a technological standard known as UMTS (Universal Mobile Telecommunicarival telecoms companies have failed to reach an agreement on its exact specifications.

This week has seen a flurry of activity related to UMTS. with BT and Microsoft joining together to develop products and services based on the technology, and the Department of Trade and Industry publishing rough guidelines on when the auction will take place, and how many licences will be up for grabs.

為专法的理解

According to Michael Wills. the Government's Telecoms Minister, there are likely to be five licences, although an official decision will not be made until early next month. Most industry experts believe that Britain's existing big four mobile phone companies — Vodafone, Cellnet, Orange and One2One - will get licences, with the fifth licence being reserved for a new entrant to the market. This is analog technology.



Starring cast; front runners for new mobile phone licences are expected to be Vodafone, Cellnet, Orange and One2One

likely to be a media company such as Carlton Communications or Reuters, or an upstart telecoms company such as Enercould, in theory, be five new entrants. What we want, though, is for the technology to be rolled out as quickly and as efficiently

as possible." It is not yet clear how much each licence will cost, but Hans Snook, chief executive of Orange, believes it will be in the region of £300 million to £400 million. "What the Government doesn't want is people bidding, then going bust," he says. What it also has to consider is the amount of jobs, exports and tax payments that will result from UMTS."

To understand UMTS, it is necessary to understand some of the technical history of Britain's mobile phone industry. When mobile phone companies began their explosive growth earlier this decade, they used poor quality first generation networks, based on

These were replaced in the tle is still raging between the mid-1990s with second generation networks, based on a European-wide technological stand-ard known as GSM (Global System for Mobile Telecommunications) which allowed customers to make better quality calls, and use basic e-mail and fax services. In spite of its name, however, the GSM system was incompatible with networks in the US. Although UMTS aims to end this incompatibility, a bat-



Wills: "efficient roll-ouf"

two companies which played a leading role in creating it: these are Ericsson, the European moer, and Qualcomm, the US technology company. Some believe it is still possible that the US could end up with an different system to Europe and Asia.

At present, politicians in both the US and Europe are distancing themselves from the squabbling. As Mr Wills says: "We are currently working out the implications of all this, but it is something for the industry to sort out itself." So far, the planned introduc-

tion of UMTS has created confusion and excitement in equal measure on world stock markets. Many analysts feel that the introduction of UMTS should be accompanied by a fundamental re-evaluation of the prospects of mobile phone companies — but they don't know where to start.

Alan Lyons, a telecoms analyst at ABN Amro, the broker, says: "Because UMTS is an in-

dry, they were solemnly set in

front of the judge.
"On close examination, he

experienced some difficulty in

telling them apart." I am told.

Case to the defendants, and a

terribly important one in the

area of intellectual property.

the key parameters, such as bile-phone masts) will be needto want to download video on to their mobile phones, and how much the handsets themselves will cost."

Software companies have also found themselves at the centre of the hype surrounding UMTS. Many analysts believe that one company could end up dominating the market for mobile phone "operating systems" (built-in software) in the same way that Microsoft dominates the market for PC

operating systems.
Psion, the British palmtop computer manufacturer, wants its Epoc operating system to become the standard. It has created a joint venture company. Symbian, with the world's three largest mobile phone handset manufacturers - Ericsson, Nokia and Motorola — to develop UMTS devices based on its software. However, Microsoft has

similar plans for its CE operatof 1969 to 1971. It does raise one obvious question, does it

an intelligence officer." And did he serve in Vietnam? "Not Not exactly? Visions of Charlie Sheen heading upriver into Cambodia. Colonel Kurtz and

not? I ask Barclays what he did in the Marines. "He was

a crazed photographer. "This is the end/Beautiful friend, the The truth, as my colleague sets out elsewhere, is that it was an ingenious ploy to avoid

ending up as a conscript in Vi-emam. Still, it makes you wonder. This man was so keen to avoid conscription he joined

MARTIN WALLER city.diary@the-times.co.uk



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Sheepish

RAMROD the sheep enjoyed his trip up to town. You may have read in these pages how Peter Moore, the London Town Crier, was awarded the Freedom of the City and so decided to invoke the time-honoured right to herd sheep across London Bridge.
There is only one thing

wrong with the story. There is no such right, and I have no idea why everyone seems to think there is.

Moore wanted to walk the sheep to publicise the Marie Curie Daffodil Campaign and Daffodil Day on March 20. He approached the police,



Oh nay: Moore, Ramrod and disapproving policeman

who at first refused and then only relented provided that Ramrod was kept on a lead. As you can see, they sent along a contingent to keep an eye on him. They didn't want all the people who had previously been refused permission to get up in arms about it," someone from the charity tells me. Hang on There can't be

loads of people out there desperate to drive sheep over London Bridge, can there? "Apparently, lots of people do ask." I WONDER what sharehold-

ers in Albert Fisher think of the £70,000 Stephen Walls

earned from Lonmin when he was supposed to be running their excuse-ridden company. Perhaps he should have spent a little less time demerging Lonrho Africa and a little more keeping Albert Fisher's cockles warm at night and telling its lettuces not to go out in the rain. And then perhaps they might have been better off and he might still have

Bottle blank SCENES from a recent High

been chairman.

Court case that could have come straight out of Rumpole. had to be painted white. Once and in the rather critical years



The City lawyer Pinsent Curtis has a fast-growing specialist business dealing with intellectual property. The team there was hired by one of the country's biggest bottle manufacturers, which was being sued by a small beer producer which makes a brand called Red Eye.

The plaintiff claimed that its bottle design was unique, and so any similar bottles should pay a royalty. The defendant had to prove that all drinks bottles were pretty much the same, whatever the brand. The judge was Mr Justice

Rattee - "and he can be, too." says a High Court source. Someone bought samples of Hooper's Hooch, Holsten, Budweiser, Corona and so on. One further wrinkle. To avoid any bias because of their different colours, each bottle then

And it is certainly the first time a High Court judge has been served Hooper's Hooch. LOUIS SCHWEITZER, the 56-year-old great nephew of Al-bert Schweitzer and the man who runs Renault, was having a good week. Renault was just days from buying control of the Romanian car manufac-

turer Dacia and he had just

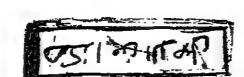
been honoured by being

named Man of the Year by the

French car industry.
Then the bombshell hit. Schweitzer has been dragged into the worst scandal to hit French public life in decades; the tainted blood trial which has the former Prime Minister Lauren Fabius and two colleagues charged with man-

Schweitzer was chief aide to Fabius from 1984 to 1986 but had no idea he might be called as a witness. He has iust learned that he faces the court next week.

Bank bottler SO THE new chief executive of Bardays was a US Marine,



ENGINEERING VEHICLES

Shares close at best of day TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous days close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices. Which Corporate Bond PEP? 30° 15° Montaid Ed 300° 150° Montaid Ed 300° 150° Montaid PM 160° 120° MPP 160° 15° Montaid 160° 10° Medical PM 160° 16° Montaid 160° Montaid 160 75 Tarret 77 Tear; 160 Table Prints 55 : Tuda; 164 : Utakana 164 : Utakana 1531 : Wolcols; 1 11:54 - 14: 414 + 4 567 3025 - 1 4227 - 57 "在中国的政府中的专用,不幸也是这个专家的任何,我们是这个人的,我们是一个人的人的人,我们是一个人的人的人,我们是一个人的人的人,我们们是一个人的人的人,我们们是一个人的人的人,我们们们是一个人的人, なのがい 一大川の地である 対対の 日本 (日本) The best performer? The highest yielder? European? CHEMICALS 57. Alonght 5 Will
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Capita and Microsoft to train teachers

By Fraser Nelson

APITA, the outsourcing and consulancy group, is to join forces with Microsoft to pitch for a slice of the £230 million of National Lottery funds available to train school teachers how to use the internet.

Capita, which already runs a series of back-office functions for schools and colleges, is a preferred bidder after securing exclusive use of Microsoft software for its classes. The scheme, which the Government announced three months ago, is software, the Universities of Nottingdesigned to bring teachers up to date with technology so they are better equipped to instruct pupils.

Capita is expected to claim about £35 million of the £230 pot because it already has strong links with the educ-tion sector. Rod Aldridge, chairman, said: "We already supply software to 22,000 schools and administer the pensions payroll for 156 local education authorities. We have an enormously strong relationship with the sector."

ham and Cambridge have agreed to help to compile Capita's courses.

Although several other consortia have been cleared to bid for the contracts, Capita will be the only one to offer Microsoft programs. The deal was announced as Capita

turned in a 48 per cent jump in pre-tax profits to £27 million over 1998 after winning £270 million of new business last year alone.

It also announced a £10 million deal with Railtrack, setting up a five-year scheme to approve contracts with firms that work on track repairs. It will design training courses, and will issue security cards, which all engineering workers must display if they want to work on the

The company is now gunning for more human resource contracts such as that agreed with Westminster Council, which is using Capita to handle all its hiring and firing as well as administering payrolls and pensions. Mr Aldridge said: "The Westmin-

ster deal was the first of its kind and po one would have predicted it was coming this time last year. Where one local authority goes, others follow, so this should give us plenty of other opportunities.

Earnings per share were 9.01p (6.51p), and the total dividend rises to 2.8p (2.1p) with a final of 1.9p due on

The shares were off 21p at 640p, coming off the record highs hit yester-day which put a market capitalisa-tion of £1.3 billion on the company.

Inn Business seeks help to fight off **Enterprise**

By DOMINIC WALSH

INN BUSINESS, the tenanted pubs operator, is thought to be casting around for a possible white knight bidder to save it from the clutches of Enterprise

Enterprise admitted last month that it had made an approach. However, analysis said that there was no love lost between the two and that Inn Business would prefer to take itself private.

Alchemy Partners, which is backing the Vaux Breweries management buyout and recently took Ushers of Trowbridge private, is a possible contender. The venture capitalist is known to have a high regard for Alan Jackson, the Inn usiness chairman.

Mr Jackson declined to be drawn, although he admitted that any offer from Enterprise would be "assessed against the numerous other strategic op-tions available". He added: "We wish to pursue the strate-gy of an independent pub com-pany as we believe we are do-ing better than anybody else." Inn Business shares jumped

30 per cent to 60p after Enterprise's approach, although analysts believe the company is worth up to 100p a share. Yesprofits up 20 per cent to £7.6 million in the year to November 30, with earnings per share of 8.23p (6.76p). A final dividend of 1.85p makes 2.525p. Its assets have been revalued at 70p a share, a 49 per cent rise.

It also unveiled an acquisition of its own, having paid £12.2 million, including debt, for Trent Taverns.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Emap expands in US with £22m deal

EMAP, the publishing and media group, moved further into the US market yesterday with the \$35 million (£21.9 million) acquisition of the automotive magazines arm of General Media. The deal brings in four magazines with a combined monthly circulation of 600,000 and annual revenues of £23 million, including Four Wheeler and Stock Car Racing. They will bolt on alongside Emap's US market leadership of the four-wheel motor magazine market after its £720 million acquisition two months ago of the Petersen magazine group.

whose 4-Wheel & Off-Road is the bestseller in the sector. Kevin Hand, Emap chief executive, said: "We indicated at the time of the Petersen acquisition that we expected it to provide a good platform for further growth, both organically and by way of acquisition." The Petersen acquisition — Emap's first move into the US market — was Mr Hand's first deal after taking over from Robin Miller as chief executive in the autumn. Emap shares, which fell to 965p after the announcement of the Petersen deal, were up 21p yesterday at £12.21, though a little shy of the recent record high of £12.91.

Britt Allcroft shares up

SHARES in Britt Allcroft, the children's media and entertainment company, rose nearly 7 per cent to 360% after it announced production plans for a full-length Thomas the Tank Engine feature film. The film will be a musical combining live action and model animation and will have a \$15 million budget. Entitled Thomas and the Magic Railroad, the film will be distributed by Destination, a Hollywood distributor, for release in the summer of 2000. The company said it did not expect to report any revenues from the project until 2001.

Brixton bond issue

BRIXTON ESTATE, the property company, launched a £100 million bond issue to fund its continuing development programme. The bonds will be priced on a yield basis. The coupon and the issue price will be determined to give an effective yield to investors of 170 to 175 basis points over the 9 per cent 2008 gilt. The bonds will be repayable on December 30, 2010, and the interest on the bonds will be payable semi-annually. Brixton shares eased 1/2 to 186p, against a 12-month high of 255p.

Falcon sale dropped

TANDEM GROUP has withdrawn its Falcon bicycle business from sale after failing to agree terms with potential buyers, and is abandoning plans to refocus the business on activities to horseracing. Tandem's bicycle operations at Leigh, Greater Manchester, were closed last November and transferred to the Falcon business at Brigg in north Lincolnshire to reduce costs. The company said that adverse weather conditions and a slowdown in the export market had adversely affected sales at Falcon in the second half.

Armitage profits up

ARMITAGE BROTHERS, the petcare group, reported an increase in profits of 7 per cent at the halfway stage despite a 4 per cent fall off in sales during the period. The company blamed weak exports and poor pre-Christmas sales in the 28 weeks to December 13 for the fall in turnover to £14.5 million, but said the rise in profits to £1.15 million was a result of a concentration on better margin products. The company also gave warning of weaknesses in current consumer demand. The interim dividend rose to 3.4p, up from 3.3p for the previous year.

While Microsoft will supply the Cookson to cut 700 jobs in drive for efficiency

BY ROBERT COLE, CITY CORRESPONDENT

COOKSON GROUP, the electronics and ceramics supplier, is cutting 700 jobs - one third in the UK - in a cost-efficency

drive. News of the redundancies was accompanied by an up-beat assessment of current trading which sent the shares up 1212p to 141p yesterday.

Cookson also assured investors it was on target to report profits of £150 million for the fipancial year to December 31.



Howard: £150m profits aim This is at the top end of analysts' expectations but is still significantly below the £179 million posted for 1997.

Cookson will close 20 of its 130 plants worldwide. The 700 the total workforce. It is to stop making certain products and slim down managerial and administrative functions.

Last November the company warned that computer manufacturers which use its electronics equipment, and steel makers which use its heat-resistant ceramic plumbproducts, were hitting

MAJ STREET

Yesterday Stephen Howard, chief executive, said that trading continued to be tough but was moderately better than

feared. Last month Morgan Crucible, which also makes ceramic products for use in blast furnaces, upset market sentiment by warning that its profits would be 15 to 20 per cent below what were then the mar-

Mr Howard said that the job losses and restructuring de-railed yesterday would enable the company to to offer cheaper products.

"A thorough and broadranging review was undertaken for all group operations, with the aim of improving efficency and productivity and to ensure that cost and operating structures were appropriate to meet the continuing challeng-es that are anticpated in 1999."

The changes will cost Cookson £1.5 million this year and £28 million next year, but are expected to save £8.5 million in operating costs this year and £14.5 million a year from 2000 onwards.

The £29.5 million total will be spent mostly on redundancy payments and relocation expenses. An additional £35 million charge will come as Cookson reduces the book value of business assets associated with the restructuring.

The company is also setting side £6 million to bolster company pension funds in the US. It said that the extra pension fund contribution was made necessary by the restructuring moves that have taken place over the last 18 months.

The net effect of all the charges will give rise to exceptional costs of £49.5 million in the 1998 results, which are due to be published at the start of March. Another £21 million exceptional charge will hit 1999

Tempus, page 30

Wallenberg accedes to the Investor throne

By MARTIN BARROW

nephew of the Wallenberg patriarch Peter, was yesterday named chief executive of Investor, the powerful family-controlled investment company that towers over the Scandinavian business world.

The 42-year-old succeeds Claes Dahlback, who served for 21 years as chief executive of Investor, which owns large stakes in companies accounting for 40 per cent of the Swedish stock market.

The latest Wallenberg at the helm of Investor represents the fifth generation of the family to be involved with the business. An earlier Marcus ruled the empire for three decades through to the 1970s, brooking no dissent and even engineered the ousting of his brother Jacob from the board of the family bank, Enskilda.

The new chief executive, nicknamed Husky, is reputed to be a quiet thinker. Although highly regarded within business circles, there is some doubt as to whether he can

. MARCUS WALLENBERG. hold Investor together in the current business dimate. Investor's holdings include 45 per cent stake in Scania. the truck and busmaker that is

RPS, the environmental consultancy where Alan Hearne, above, is chief executive, reported a

35 per cent rise in underlying pre-tax profits to £5.07 million for the year to December 31, 1998. A 2.75p final lifts the total dividend to 5.5p (4.8p). RPS had £3.9 million net cash at the year end

being pursued by Volvo. After agreeing to sell its car busi-ness to Ford, Volvo bought a 13 per cent stake in Scania and sought merger talks, so far without success.

Investor also brokered the impending merger of Zeneca and Astra, which will form Europe's largest drugs group and merged papermaker Stora with Finland's Enso to create one of the world's largest forestry groups.

Mr Dahlback is to remain

as one of Investor's two vicechairmen, with responsibility for mergers and acquisitions. Meanwhile, Volvo reported a 21 per cent fall in 1998 operating profits to SKr6.68 billion (£523 million). Volvo Cars, which was recently sold to Ford for £3 billion, rose 8 per cent but operating profits from the car division fell to SKr3.8

billion from SKr4.5 billion.

Hubco reports sharp drop in turnover

BY SAEED SHAH

HUBCO, the Pakistani power producer that forms part of National Power's \$400 million (£245 million) investment in the country, yesterday announced a sharp drop in interim turnover and profits, and said that profits may be cut further depending on a forthcoming court decision. Net profits fell 37.8 per cent

to 3.3 billion rupees (£38.8 million) for the six months to December 31, from 5.31 billion rupees in the same period. However, the results included a large amount of revenue from the the state-owned Water and Power Development Authority, which Hubco has not received and which is the subject

of a case before the Supreme Court of Pakistan. If the case goes against Hub-

co, its net profit would fall by a further 50 per cent to just 1.66 billion rupees for the interim period. A court ruling last year also prevents Hubeo from making dividend payments. National Power, which has

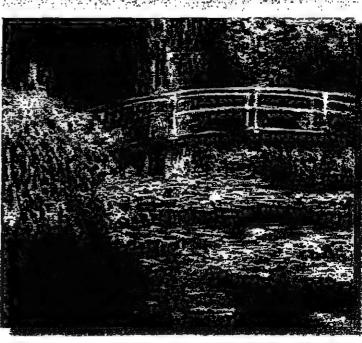
a 26 per cent stake in Hubco, has taken a £25 million charge in its interim results as a result of losses at Hubco and Kot Addu, its other power project in Pakistan

National Power paid \$101 million for its Hubeo holding. and it invested another \$291 million for a 36 per cent stake in Kot Addu.



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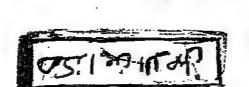
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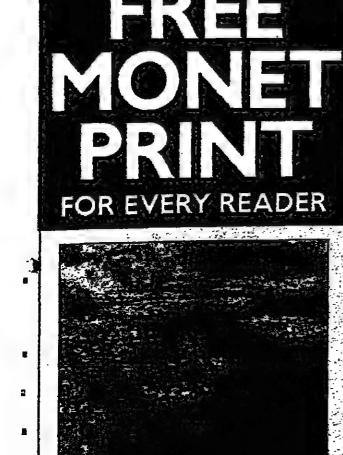
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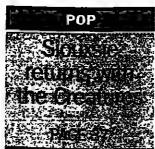
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ENNY RAVIT







ARTIMES





all me sentimental, soft in the head or prematurely senile, but I never leave a Pinlico Opera show without a lump in the throat, an embarrassing prickling behind the eyes and a temporary feeling of goodwill towards all humanity. That is because the Pimlico productions I have seen took place in prisons, What's more, they involved prisoners — seriously bad boys, often — not just in chorus and backstage tasks, but alongside

L'e opera pros in important speaking and singing roles.

And what's more, the lags have not been patronised or paraded like immates of some 18th-century Bedlam. Instead, many see the shows as a genuine reprieve from whatever inner demons led them into their incarceration. Rather than being slapped down by the ritual humiliation that has been such a feature of British prisons even in recent times, they have been given back something that is perhaps even more valuable than their liberty. Their dignity.

Pimico Opera, which specialises in refreshing the parts of society

Why did they stir salt into the porridge?

that other opera cannot reach, chooses its repertoire with wry aptness. It takes a special audacity to stage a musical about a serial killer for a cast and audience of real killers — but Sweeney Todd in the Scrubs was brilliant. Then came an unforgettable excursion into the gang warfare of West Side Story and a manically funny evocation of New York hoodlums in Guys and Dolls. Both of those I saw in HMP Wandsworth, a truly chilling place (the last British prison with a working gallows) miraculously if briefly made glorious by these displays of polished exuberance.

This week Pimlico staged another pertinent show. It was The Threepenny Opera, that witheringly misanthropic portrait of a Soho peopled by vicious villains and bent coppers, and it was staged at Downview Prison in Surrey. Downview may only be a medium-security clink, but in the early

1990s it had a dreadful reputation for drug-fuelled violence. For outsiders to have worked with the inmates on an opera in those days would have been madness.

But Colin Lambert, the present

Governor, believes (as he wrote in the Pimlico programme) that "the present popular but unforgiving philosophy of rejection and condemnation must be replaced by a much more caring approach". His "voluntary anti-drugs policy" and rehabilitation programme seem to have transformed the atmosphere. And this extraordinary Threepenny Opera — which used many inmates serving time for drug-related offences — was a triumphant vindication of his optimism and strategy. At least, it should have

strategy. At least, it should have been. But here the story turns sour. Pirnlico Opera may have picked up powerful allies — Sir Stephen Turnim, former Chief Inspector of Prisons, Is its patron — but its liberIN THE ARTS

RICHARD MORRISON

al ethos has also provoked surprising hostility. And on Wednesday, as I found myself at Downview in an audience of just ten people, it became clear to me that this show had been as good as sabotaged.

The ostensible cause was a prison officers' pay dispute with the Home Office. This was used as the

excuse to implement a work-to-rule that effectively scuppered the advertised evening shows and meant that rescheduled performances had to be called "rehearsals", and played to just a few outsiders.

All this was thrown at Pimlico Opera six days before opening night. The result was that it had to return thousands of pounds in ticket sales. More important still, the prisoners who had worked so hard on this show were denied the brief reward of public acclaim.

Clearly, more than a salary grievance lies behind the prison officers' action. After all, Pimlico is not publicly funded for its prison work. Its indefatigable founder and music director, Wasfi Kani, raises all the money from foundations bearing such famous philanthropic names as Getty, Hamlyn and Mackintosh. So by sabotaging Pimlico's performances the guards were not hurting the Home Office. The sus-

motive was to ruin the prisoners' big night.

f that is true, it is a surly tactic.
Yes, it is wrong to get too romantic about the reformability of prisoners. Downviews inmates have done very bad things, and prison is meant to punish. But if a man emerges no better than he went in — or even more hardened — he will surely offend again.
Besides Pimlico, many other ded-

He will strety oliend again.

Besides Pimlico, many other dedicated professional performers and artists work in prisons. Art won't turn criminals into saints, but it can divert pent-up energies and festering resentments into positive self-expression. Deprive prisoners of that and you might as well dig out the old signs saying "Abandon hope all ye who enter here".

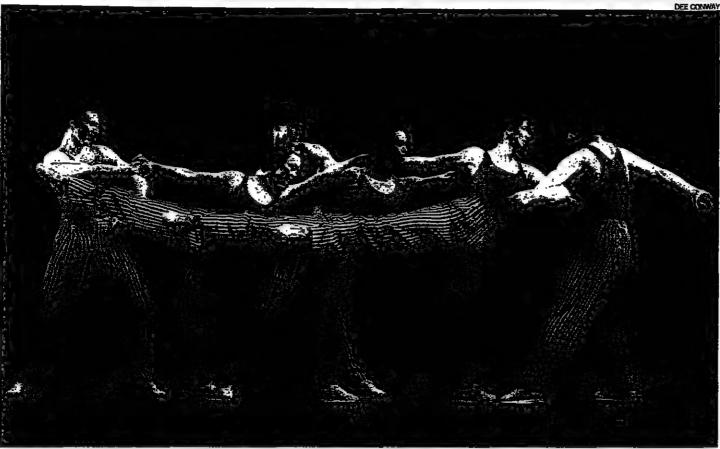
hope all ye who enter here".

At least, in time-honoured fashion, the show did go on in Down-

verberation in the makeshift "theatre" (the prison gym) was immense, and this rendered much of Brecht's dialogue inaudible. (Some might feel this to be no great loss.)

But in Emma Jenkins's production the professional performers were compelling, especially Roger Monk as Mr Peachum and David Antrobus as Macheath. And next to these were outstanding efforts by the prison's own drama teacher, Esther Baker (Lucy), and two inmates: Trevor Toussaint, who sang Mack the Knife with ferocious intensity, and Ricky Fearon, playing the corrupt Chief of Police. And then there were Kurt Weill's sinister choruses, hurled out venomously by a bunch of real-life cons wielding baseball bats, saws and knives. A sight to send a frisson through braver spines than mine.

I am unqualified to judge whether Pimlico's prison excursions will aid the long-term rehabilitation of offenders. But I know that the company has achieved one small miracle at least. It has actually made opera seem useful. My goodness, that's dangerous. Lock them up!



Birmingham Royal Ballet lets rip in Twyla Tharp's modern ballet classic, In the Upper Room, given its company premiere on Tuesday

Go for the burn

he triple bill Birmingham Royal Ballet brings to Sadler's Wells this week reveals David Bintley's strengths as a director. Not only has he the imagination (and the choreographic talent) to resurrect one of the gems of British comic ballet, Ninette de Valois's 1940 The Prospect Before Us, he also has the nous to acquire one of the great modern ballets of our age. I am referring to Twyla Tharp's In the Upper Room, an instant classic from the moment it was unveiled by Tharp's own company in America in 1986. It entered the Birmingham repertoire on Tuesday, the star attraction of the company's London season.

BRB is the first British company to perform Tharp's exhilarating crossover ballet, and you can see why Bintiley wanted it. It is a work so challenging and energising that it brings fresh life to those who perform it, and that is certainly the case with the Birmingham dancers. Although they have not quite gone the distance into the choreography's burning empowerment, they rip the stage apart most impressive-

DANCE

ly. Dancers such as Grace Maduell, David Justin and Andrew Murphy are transformed, although the entire ensemble has its heart set on making this work.

Tharp's choreography and Philip Glass's commissioned minimalist score are in total agreement, driving forward with a relentless pulse and determination. The bailet opens with two "power" women in black-and-white striped prison gear and trainers (costumes: Norma Kamali) — they are the guard dogs who watch over this ballet. Sparked into action by Jennifer Tipton's striking lighting, they shuffle and slide, readying themselves for the rollercoaster ride. Gradually other men and women (appearing as if by magic through Santo Loquasto's black velvet set) take the stage, some in trainers, others in

shocking red pointe shoes, looking like rebellious ballerinas (they are the bomb squad). The ferocity and glamour of their classical technique is contrasted with the casual, looselimbed spontaneity of the trainer brigade. Body rolls share space with razor-sharp pirouettes; perilous pointed arabesques cut across the jazzy fluid lines. The evolving movement comes thick and very fast, and so consumed is it by energy that sometimes all it can do is

Only in the finale, when the ballet reiterates itself with dizzying effect, does the entire cast of 13 come together, trainers and pointe shoes flying. The women look strong, the men look happy, and so do we. My only quibble with Bintley is

My only quibble with Bintley is that placing Tharp's ballet at the end of a triple bill that starts (in delightful fashion) with The Prospect Before Us and continues with Bintley's own The Protecting Veil, a somewhat soporific and protracted work set to John Tavener's famous score, makes for a long evening.

DEBRA CRAINE

change in the conductor, and a partial change of programme. But nothing could alter the aural characteristics of the Academy of St Martin-in-the-Fields. As soon as the 22-strong band struck up, led from the violin by Kenneth Sillito, not Iona Brown, our ears were being stroked by that silken sound, those imploring cellos, those diminuendos as sweet and delicate as a spider's web in the dew. The Academy would probably try to make Xenakis sound ravishing. Nothing so thorny was on offer, of course. this was a safe, mainstream programme of music for strings by Bartok, Shosta-kovich, Tippert and Britten. Even so, did all the music

need to sound quite so civilised, so caressed? This is an

old Academy problem.

Mainstream delicacies

With Bartok's Divertimento, written in a hectic 15 days just before the outbreak of the Second World War, you missed a Hungarian snap to the folk gestures and rhythms, while the night-time shivers of the middle movement only really surfaced at the close. But there were benefits too, like the divine lift to the snatch of polka in the finale, not to mention the gorgeous string tone.

With Shostakovich's Chamber Symphony some of the problems of expression lay in the music. This is an orchestration by Rudolf Barshal of his Eighth String Quartet of 1960, a searing piece written in three red-hot days, pointedly dedi-



cated "to the memory of the victims of fascism and war", though there are also elements of a self-portrait. Sheer weight of numbers, however, made the hurling scherzo lose some of its menace; the waltz echoes too emerged flattened, drained of any sarcasm. The Academy seemed happiest when the music shook off its inverted commas and settled down to being plain sombre: the final diminuendo was beautifully and feel-

ingly judged.

In the second half, Sillito and his team reached solid English ground. Tippet's attractive Little Music, written for the Jacques Orchestra in 1946, is unfairly overlooked in concerts. Its littleness, perhaps, is part of the problem.

lem, and they soared, strummed, plucked, and buzzed through Britten's kaleidoscope, happy as larks.

Even after the Academy's fine-

ly balanced reading, all memories were knocked out of our

heads by the cut and thrust of

Britten's youthful showpiece,

the Variations on a Theme of

Frank Bridge. Sarcasm may be hard for the Academy to

handle, but pastiche is no prob-

GEOFF BROWN

Nordic notes

uring the past four years, those in the know have known well that, if you really want to experience the cutting edge of chamber-music activity north of the border, then the place to go is Aberdeen. A university with no official music department has succeeded, in a unique collaboration with its city council and the Scottish Arts Council, in scooping one of Europe's most sought-after young string quartets for a four-year residency.

That quartet is the Swedish ensemble Yggdrasil which, like the great Ash Tree of Nordic mythology, has sunk its roots deep into the Nordic musical bedrock while spreading its branches worldwide. Its successful residency winds down at the end of this month, and last week the leave-taking began with a formidable programme of Shostakovich, Carlsuedt and Beethoven.

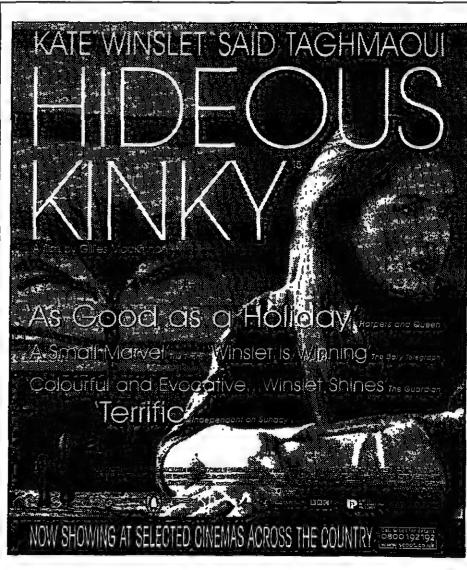
At the moment the ensemble is recording Shostakovich's complete quartets, and the performance of the Ninth in Aberdeen epitomised the searching intensity and commitment of its approach to this composer. The string quartets of the group's compatriot Jan Carlstedt are little known in Britain, but Aberdeen has been discovering them, and this concert presented the world premiere of his Sixth.

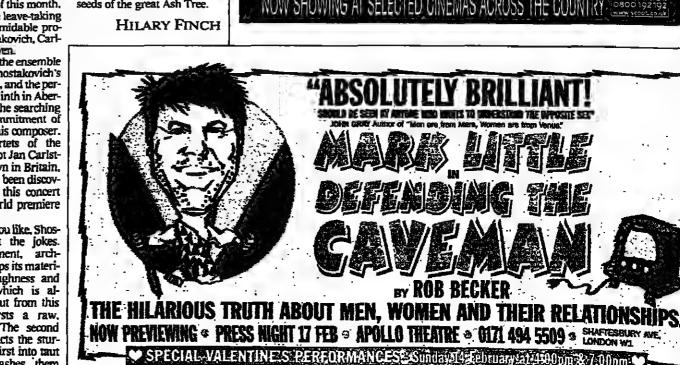
Carlstedt is, if you like, Shostakovich without the jokes. This five-movement, archform work develops its material with a thoroughness and thoughtfulness which is almost palpable. But from this very rigour bursts a raw, earthy passion. The second movement contracts the sturdy motifs of the first into taut rhythms, and lashes them

Yggdrasil Quartof Alicalisen

with high, angry trills and thwacking pizzicato. The lyrical slow movement maintains intensity through textural tension and a gradually destabilising metre which, in turn, is metamorphosed into dance before a final elegiac epilogue.

It said much for Carlstedt's quartet that it stood its ground in the challenging company of both the Shostakovich and of a fast and furious performance of Beethoven's Grosse Fuge. Yggdrasil, it seems, has shaken the granite city to its foundations, and new growth is already sprouting from the seeds of the great Ash Tree.







ARTS

POP GIG

POP INTERVIEW

Freddie Meyer, who he?

Freddie and his schemer

How does a complete unknown plug his debut single? By

hijacking a saint and making a TV commercial, that's how

ou're lying in bed, a bit fluey. You're stuck in the ad break between Trisha (You're too fat to wear that") and Richard and Judy ("More news on that ghost on the Al3") when this extraordinary commercial appears. It's Freddie Mey-er, singing his brand new Valentine's Day single, Do You Love Me?. It's a slick, catchy slice of Michael Bolton Stuff, The ad, however, was obviously shot on a budget of 49p. We briefly see him onstage, in what appears to be 1987, before a barrage of cheaply animated hearts obscures him. Do You Love Me?. the voiceover intones, is available by ringing a special Freddie hotline. Or from Debenhams.

Three shots of Day Nurse and half a bottle of Buttercup Cough Syrup to the good, you are confused. Who the hell is Freddie Meyer? And you'd be right to wonder after an hour and a half looking for him on the Internet, I can conclude that Meyer is the least famous person in the English-speaking world.

So how can this completely unknown man launch an utterly unprecedented advertising campaign for his debut single? Is he a lottery winner, blowing his wedge to impress The Guys Back At The Pub? Freddie Meyer sits at a table in Leith's. He is all ponytail, leather



MORAN

naily from Ohio, he saw the Motor-town Revue at the age of 12, and "it blew my mind". He got a band to-gether, and by 1966 had a residency in St Tropez. He hung with Charles never got around to going home. He now makes his money writing songs for French films, and playing gigs at Euro Disney.
I noticed when I played my own

stuff, the crowds went wild," he says in a careful Midwestern drawl. "Danish, French, Belgian people of all ages, even little kids, loved it." He gives a sleepy smile.

One gets the impression Freddie would have been quite happy with Euro Disney and his French film cheques; but rockn'roll is a 50-50 split between dreamers and schemers, and Freddie's manager, Paul Bloomberg, is the latter. No one

er than Paul, with his jewellery, his blue suit, his Danny DeVito-ashustler shtick. The impression is of Del Boy pushing an amiable, super-annuated MOR Rodney. "I thought it was crazy that Fred-

die had all these very classy songs, but no one knew who he was," he declares, leaning across the table. "All they want is four sperm with a guitar. We knew we'd have to find another way to get Freddie's music across to the people." So Freddie, Bloomberg and another friend called Steven pooled their money into a Get Freddie Famous fund, and started making plans.
"I thought. Freddie is a very ro

mantic guy, and there is no more romanticker day than Valentine's Day." Bloomberg stretches expan-sively in his chair. "So hook him into that, and February 14 becomes Freddie Day." Entrusted with turn-ing Valentine's Day into Freddie Day was Ross Capon at the adver-tising agency CKBT, which handles Johnson & Johnson, Daewoo and Rizla. Capon has the weary erudition of a man who's seen it all.

"I thought they should market themselves like anything eise." he says. "We got a good deal on TV advertising space and the rest went from there, really." "The response had been fantastic." Bloomberg says. "We've had Freddie on Capital Gold, Melody, Heart FM and



There's no one romanticker than Freddie Meyer, even if he did meet his Waterloo at Waterloo. Geddit?

LBC.it's growing day by day." "And at the end of the interview, I always say 'Do you love me?' "Fred-die chuckles. "It gets them, every

Alas, the planned grand finale of Freddie Day has come a cropper. Waterloo station was to witness a Freddie Explosion, with half-naked Chippendale types handing out

So, could the mega-hyped band

roses and CDs, Freddie being mobbed by "fans" as he alighted from Eurostar, and a 9ft long air-ship with Freddie's name looking down on it all. Tragically, Railtrack nixed the whole plan. "Something to do with planning. Waterloos been our Waterloo." Capon sighs.

The astonishing thing about this admirable, ramshackle campaign,

This is, that was, Gay Dad

Style over content arrogance may be a prerequisite for the sort of band Gay Dad aspire to be, but it only works when it is backed up by great music

however, is that if it works, the music inclustry will be turned on its head. Freddie Meyer will have executed an act of brilliant subversion.

in the meantime, Freddie's leaning eagerly across the table. "One last thing," he says. "Do you love

Gay Dad, sad future Cooking with gas NED ROTHENBERG Sync

Sync (Intuition INT 3249-2) LEADER Ned Rothenberg compares his new band, Sync, to a trio of chefs, experienced in varying degrees in the different musical cuisines of the world", and sees his own role as imagining the final meal. To this end, his compositions set his own clarinets, alto or shaku-hachi (bamboo ffute) against a be-guiling variety of sounds: the tabla, dumbek and assorted percussion of

Samir Chatterjee, and the acoustic guitars of Jerome Harris. Some pieces are relatively straightforward jazz-based jams, others are freer in approach, abandoning regular rhythm altogether in favour of textural adventurous ness. The result is a highly enjoya-

NEW JAZZ ALBUMS

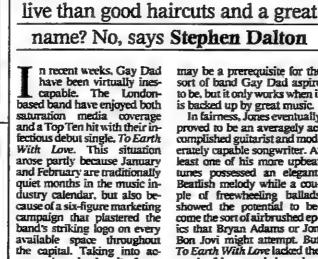
ble vindication of Rothenberg's overall aim: to achieve "variety, but not at the expense of focus".

MISHA ALPERIN with JOHN SURMAN

(ECM 1664 557 650-2) LIKE many contemporary ECM products, First Impression is deeply formed and flawlessly recorded. Pianist Misha Alperin is steeped in the folk tradition, but adept at transforming its melodies, via a sensibiliby informed by both jazz and classi-cal music, into deeply affecting, highly individual compositions in which an almost crepuscular lyricism alternates with a lilting ro-manticism. The CD sleeve — all glacial biue and midnight black - per fectly represents the music within.

CHRIS PARKER

recommends roots



and eminently quotable inter-view style, this financial gam-ble begins to smell like oldfashioned hype.
Thus the acid test for Gay Dad has been their current national tour, their first since becoming chart stars. Cut adrift from the currents of metropolitan taste, the band still managed to pack out the compact Fleece And Firkin in Bristol with expectant pop fans on Tuesday night. But many of these floating voters left unim-pressed by the latest fad to be

imposed on them by an excita-

count that the band's front-man, Cliff Jones, is a former

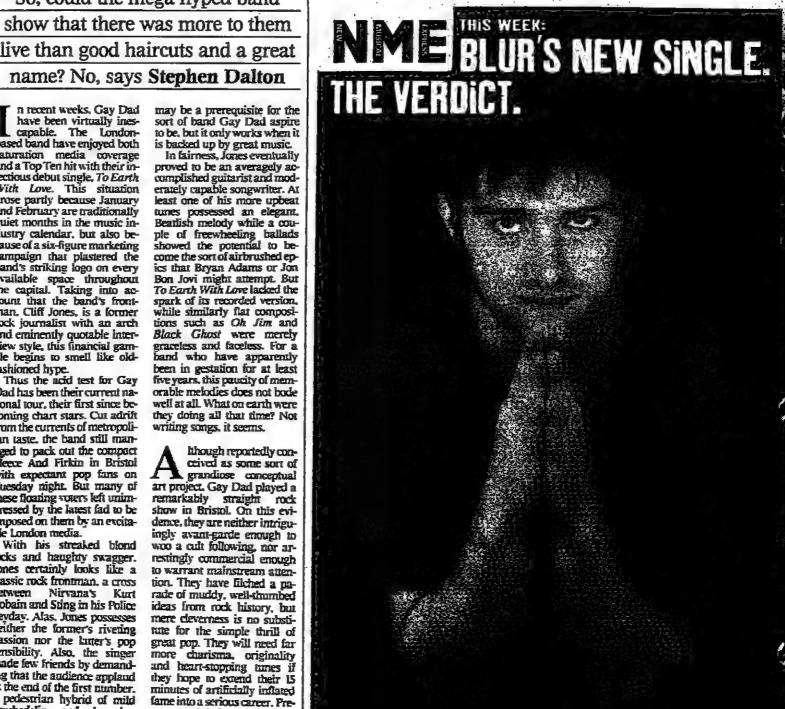
rock journalist with an arch

ble London media. With his streaked blond locks and haughty swagger. Jones certainly looks like a classic rock fromman, a cross between Nirvana's Kurt Cobain and Sting in his Police heyday. Alas, Jones possesses neither the former's rivering passion nor the latter's pop sensibility. Also, the singer made few friends by demanding that the audience applaud at the end of the first number. a pedestrian hybrid of mild psychedelia and knowing glam rock pastiche. Arrogance

may be a prerequisite for the sort of band Gay Dad aspire to be, but it only works when it is backed up by great music. In fairness, Jones eventually

proved to be an averagely accomplished guitarist and mod-erately capable songwriter. At least one of his more upbeat tunes possessed an elegant, Beatlish melody while a couple of freewheeling ballads showed the potential to be-come the sort of airbrushed epics that Bryan Adams or Jon Bon Jovi might attempt. But To Earth With Love lacked the spark of its recorded version. while similarly flat compositions such as Oh Jim and Black Ghost were merely graceless and faceless. For a band who have apparently been in gestation for at least five years, this paucity of memorable melodies does not bode well at all. What on earth were they doing all that time? Not writing songs, it seems.

though reportedly conceived as some sort of grandiose conceptual art project. Gay Dad played a remarkably straight rock show in Bristol. On this evidence, they are neither intriguingly avant-garde enough to woo a cult following, nor arrestingly commercial enough to warrant mainstream attention. They have filched a parade of muddy, well-thumbed ideas from rock history, but mere deverness is no substitute for the simple thrill of great pop. They will need far more charisma, originality and heart-stopping turnes if they hope to extend their 15 minutes of artificially inflated fame into a serious career. Premature adulation will do them few favours in the long run.







POP ALBUMS

Veterans return

ARTS

POP FOCUS

Where there's faith . . .

Decline of the Siouxsie nation

THE CREATURES Anima Animus (Sioux 4CD £12.49)

IT IS too soon for a Siouxsie and the Banshees revival, but in the meantime Siouxsie and drummer Budgie return to the fray with Anima Animus, their third album in the guise of the Creatures. As pop's most celebrated Darby and Joan act, they know each other's game inside out, and the margiage between her icy yo-del and his marauding tomtom tattoos is carried out with consummate poise,

But it is a curiously uninvolving collection, despite some intriguing rhythmic variations on Disconnected and the outlandishly dark lyrics of Exterminating Angel: "Ripping through your menstrual stream/Rising up taste of rusty can/And jagged-glass feeling again". And on the P.J. Harvey-ish Prettiest Thing and the Portishead-influenced Don't Go To Sleep Without Me, there are clear signs that these once proud innovators are now playing catch-up with current developments.

BLONDIE (Beyond/RCA 74321648732 £14.49)

COMPARED with the reunion; of bands such as the Vel-ver inderground and the Sex Pistols, the Blondie comeback was not so surprising. But to find them at No I this week with Maria, a gem of a single and their first new hit since they disbanded in 1982, is certainly cause for wonderment. The explanation lies partly in the fact that, unlike those other

CDs reviewed in The Times can be ordered from the Times Music Shop on 0345 023498

NEW POP ALBUMS

groups. Blondie have done the necessary groundwork, tour-ing at grass roots level as well as writing and recording new material, rather than relying on media hype and a classic back catalogue.
Blondie's music occupies a

point on the stylistic compass somewhere between frivolous, street-smart pop and "quality" rock, and the tension between the two is evident throughout this album. Screaming Skin, with its fidgety ska beat, Boom Boom in the Zoom Zoom Room featuring Debbie Harry in pseudo-scat singing mode and the title track, with its cheeky quotes from Bach's Toecata and Fugue, are all songs which, although carefully crafted, refuse to take themselves too seriously.

Another disorientating leature is the constant changing of stylistic hats: the Spector-ish girl group sound of Out in the Streets, a faux-country waltz time signature for The Dream's Lost on Me, a brisk reggae pulse for Divine. That they can make such a disparate bunch of arrangements all sound like bona fide Blondie songs is a mark of the band's continuing greatness, and if it does not quite hang together as an album, No Exit will doubtless function as a rich source of future hit sin-

gles. It certainly provides a firm artistic rationale for the

group's return to active duty. JOHN MELLENCAMP

John Mellencamp (Columbia 491652 £14.49)
"I'M NOT the young kid I used to be," John Mellencamp sings on I'm Not Running Anymore. Well, he can join the club and, while he's at it, reflect on the fact that in rock'n' roll, as in life, once you reach a certain stage it can often be too

late to rectify past mistakes. In Mellencamp's case, the failure to tour here over the years means that another fine album by the fading American superstar is destined to be passed over by the British record-buying public. This is a shame. For, as well as durifully shoehorning a few modern

LINKS ...

Top of The Pope, BBC1, tonight.

RADIO: IJK 7ep 40, Radio 1, Sunday, 4pm

TOP TEN ALBUMS

(1) (3)	You've Come a Long Way, Baby	
(2)	I've Been Expecting You	
(2) (4) (16)	Step One	Steps (Iwe)
(10)	The Misoducation of	
(5)	Forgiven, not Forgotten	
(6) (7)	Ladios & Gentlemon - the Best of Where We Bolong	
1221	Ray of Light	
(21)	Rie Willia Style	

• Figure in brackets indicates last week's position

dance music effects into the mix of Break Me Off Some and spicing up the Stax-like Summer of Love with a sitar part where you would expect the horn solo to be, Mellencamp continues to play to his considerable strengths, conjuring up another raft of well-observed rural-rock narratives

spiced with a twist of violin. The homespun philosophies come thick and fast — "What you believe about yourself/It all comes true " - along with a pessimistic State of the Un-ion address called Eden is Burning which catches up on the story of Jack and Diane, the couple from Mellencamp's 1982 hit of the same name. "Nothing's forever. I guess it's true," he sings, the genuine and rueful voice of experience.

BOOM BOOM SATELLITES Out Loud

THEY have been called the Japanese Chemical Brothers and their heavy techno approach is frequently compared

(R&S RS 99149 E14.99)

to that of the Prodigy, but that is only part of the story. For whereas the galvanising rhythm tracks of those acts are all sampled and machine-generated, the duo from Tokyo make liberal use of guitars and drums as well as technology, an arrangement more in line with the working practices of the Propellerheads than of the other British big beat acts.

When they lock on to a John Bonham-meets-Massive Attack groove during Missing Note, it sounds like a surprisingly nimble Godzilla on the move. Throw in industrial, funk and jazz influences, such as the Miles Davis-style trumpet and flute flourishes in Better the Jam No 3, and the result is dancefloor dynamite.

DAVID SINCLAIR



"If someone connects with us, shares our faith, so be it," say dc Talk. "If they don't, it's OK. We're not here to preach"

Faith — the music Christian rock

showing the

the Stones band dc Talk are with the Maharishi Mahesh ogi have religion and rock'n roll been better friends. Madonna no longer criticises Ca-Devil who has tholicism, she sings in Sanskrit and practises yoga. At a recent awards ceremony, Buddhist Beastie Boy Adam Yauch - whose band has

the best tunes, says Lisa Verrico turned Tibetan monks into Wu-Tang Clan leader RZA. pop's hippest cause - made a plea to Muslims. Meanwhile, bad boy rapper Mark Morrison and former House Of Pain frontman Everlast all claim to have converted to Islam. Even Courtney Love has taken to

> from her microphone. While pop's current flirta-tion with Eastern religion may be purely a fashion fad, a decade of steadily building sales of faith-based music is proof that the public's interest has a longer shelf-life. Moreover, in mainstream America — and more recently Britain — Christian rock has been making a comeback. In America, the likes of Australian act Newsboys, Audio Adrenaline and the multi-platinum Jars of Clay frequently fill arena-sized venues. Britain's Delirious sold out Wembley Stadium, despite receiving next to no mainstream media coverage.

dangling Tibetan mala beads

To date, though, the scene's biggest success story is Nashville-based band de Talk. Since forming exactly a decade ago, the trio have recorded one gold and two platinum-selling albums, each of which won a Grammy award. Their latest album. Supernatural, is set to do even better. It peaked at No 4 in the Billboard chart, is poised to surpass the 1.5 million sales of its predecessor. 1995's Jesus Freak, and is all but guaranteed to add to the hand's haul of Grammies.

However, on a two-day trip to London prior to the album's release in this country, band members Kevin Max and Toby Mckeehan do not seem over-pleased by the prospect.

"Of course, it's nice to be recognised," says McKeehan. "It would be an honour to win another Grammy We're just a little disappointed with the nomination. McKeehan's disappoint-

ment stems from the category in which Supernatural is to be judged. Thanks to the trio's devout Christian beliefs the awards panel has labelied the album "gospel pop". That de Talk had hoped to break into the mainstream rock/pop category for the first time says much about the state of contemporary Christian music.

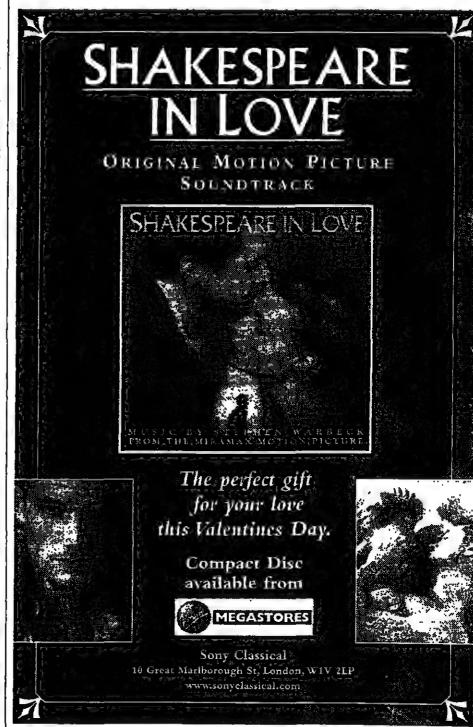
han. "Our aim has always been to appeal to as many music fans as possible, whether they are Christian, Buddhist or non-believers." Fresh from an extensive, arena-sized American tour (one gig in Detroit attracted an audience of 15,000), de Talk are well on the way to achieving that goal. "We've certainly broken down a lot of barriers," says Max. "At home, we're seen as a rock band which just happens to have Christian beliefs."

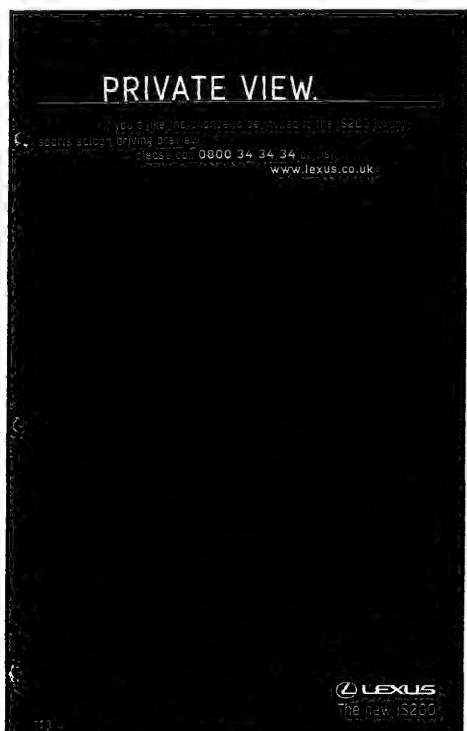
de Talk's crossover appeal undoubtably owes much to the appearance of its members. As soon as our interview is over. Max and McKeehan hit Harvey Nichols on a shopping spree. Then they're off to a smart Soho restaurant, where they will be seen drinking absinthe until the early hours.

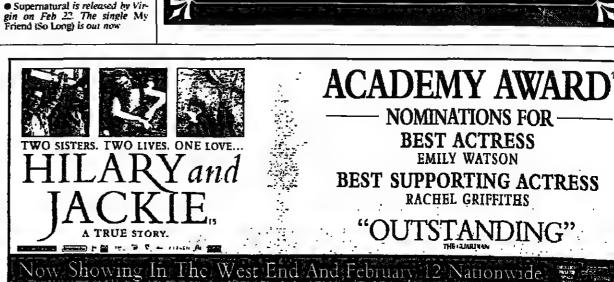
"Did you expect us to be dressed in dodgy jeans and handing out leaflets?" asks Max. That isn't our style. Our lyrics express a faith which is a very big part of our lives. If someone connects with that, if they share that faith, so be it. If they don't, it's OK. We're not here to preach."

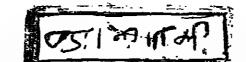
nstead, they are here to play good music. Awarded four out of a possible five stars by Q magazine, Supernatural is a consistent rock album which mixes harmonic vocals with 1960s-sounding melodic pop and British indie influences such as early Radio

"We grew up on the pop charts and our parents' Beatles albums." says McKeehan, "My influence was the Police, Kevin's was Queen. There's no reason why spiritual music shouldn't sound good."









Leicester gets the laughs

ARTS

THEATRE

Poliakoff's BBC play

RECOMMENDED THIS WEEKEND

Guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Marit Hargle

LONDON

ParsideAL: Mark Bidel returns to English National Opera to conduct Nikolaus Lehrhoff's new production of Vragner's powerful allegory on the struggle between good and exit. Kim Begley heads the cast which also includes Gwynne Howell, Kalthryn Harnes and Peter Bidhom. Colliseum (0171-832 6300). Opens temporare 40m. [A] tomorrow, 4pm. 🔂

TOAST: Debut play by Richard Bes set in a rkull bakery disturbed by a new arrival. Richard Wilson directs Ambassadors (0171-565 5000)

ORCHESTRA OF THE AGE OF **ENLIGHTENMENT, Monica Huggel** ENLIGHTENMENT, Monca Hugget takes on the double role of volon soloist and director with the period band in an evening of French Baroque music rollering works by Lully, Charpener and Rameau Disem Elizabilith Half (0171-910) 4242), Tomorrow, 7,45pm, (5)

NOWIE THE BOOKIE May 0 House a nightmare account of Dublin's vicious underworld leuts, Mike Breakfull directs Aidan Kelly and Karl Shields Bush (0181-743 3388), Opens ELSEWHERE

CARDIFF The celebrated Norwegian panes Led Ove Anderses joins the SBC National Orchestra of Wales under Mark Wigglesworth in Benhoven's Emperor Concerto framed by Nursens and Shoriahment. St David's Half (01222 878444). Torugiti, 7,30pm. (§) LEICESTER. Launch of ten days of



OXFORD: Leonard Station continu-his survey of Casch music as he ns survey of secon masse as ne conducts the Philihermenia in the second part of his acclaimed Czech Connections senses, Here the PO performs Smelana's hymni to his native country, Ma Vast, and Beethoven's Fourth Plano Concerts related by Mikhai Petrosu.

played by Mikhail Pletnev. Sheldonian Theatre (01865 798600) Tomorrow, 7.30pm. (2)

Jeremy Kingston's choice of theatre showing in London III House full, returns only 🗓 Some seats available 🗆 Seats at all prices

NEW WEST END SHOWS

☐ BAREFACED CHIC: Fescinating Arda play here for a month become setting off on their latiest national rour. This time (Carlie Peters directs, Royal, Haymarket (0171-830 8800). ⑤

THE FOREST: Alan Ayokbourn edapts Ostrovsky's sardone 1870 corredy, with Michael Feast's impovershed sector hying to impress his mc faunt (Frances de la Tour). Anthony Page directs.

Lyttelton (0171-452 3000). (2) AND THE BROTHER TOO:

Earnen Morrissey returns to the rumitable come writings of Plann C'Brien, revealing more about "Yer Man" and his currous world view. Tricycle (0171-328 1000). (3) SARA: Patnok Miles's treatment of Chekhov's hancy, locusing on the

☑ COPENHAGEN: Heisenberg mys-teriously sails on Niels Bohr in war-time Denmark, Michael Frayn's michgent play transfers to the West End. Duchess (0171-494-5075).

☐ THE RIOT. Co-production with kneetigh Theatre of Cornwall, presenting Nick Darke's new play, set at the turn of the century where the army is brought in to quell the rivalry

N CKLAHOMAI: National Theatre cast Includes Maureen Lipman in paraster of Trevor Nunn's Rodgers and Hammerstein, Lyceum (0171-416 6099).

SI RICHARD III: Robert Landsay puts on the hump for Elijah Mosharsky's RSC transfer from Stratford, Savoy (0171-838 8888). ☐ FOURPLAY: Post-modern bedroom laree by Spanish dramatist Sergi Belbel, Harse-Peter Kelher dracts for Marrynoth productions, Lynie Studie, W6 (0181-741 8701), (∑

Ho, W6 (0181-741 8701). CERTAIN YOUNG MEN: Peter Gill directs Jeremy Northam, Sean Chapman and ex other young actors in his exploration of the way today's men äve sogether. Almeida Theatre (0171-359 4404) 🚱

FILMS ON GENERAL RELEASE

James Christopher's choice of the latest movies

LIFE IS BEAUTIFUL (PG). Roberto Benight's romantic Second World War table stifiches a disturbing comedy into the Hobocaust, it's supremely about survival in a death carrip is at best nauseous.

YOUR PRIENDS & HEIGHBOTT (18): Neil Labbat's withoring, ser-obsessed comedy of mariners tracks the anothers of six yupper budysomethings. The humour and cyncism knocks the stuffing out of Alb Medical Meter Necessaria.

SWITCHELADE SISTERS (18): SWITCHBLADE SISTERS (18): Cheesy re-release of Jack Hill's cult lism about teenage delinquents gang of sullen females terrorce hopeless police and God-learing owners of greasy burger joints. The joy of Hill's film is never knowing how lar he has his tongue in his cheek. DON'T GO BREAKING MY HEART

(PG). Jenny Seagrove and Anthon Edwards star in a quirky Valentine corriedy where they butwit the distancy dentist. Charles (250) JACK FROST (PG): Michael Keaton comes back to life as a snowman to spend quality time with his sort. The

MY GIANT (PG): Sleazy film agent art GIANT (Fus): beazy nm agent Billy Crystal discovers a Romanan giant and whips him off to star in bad moves in Hollywood. Big ego trip for Crystal, bad more for everyone else. Michael Lehmann directs.

HOTEL DU NORD (PG): Marce Carne's beter-eweet 1938 classic about two sets of Parsser lovers has labuldus performances from Louis

CURRENT

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DEFENDING

THE CAVEMAN

HIDEOUS KINKY (15): Kate Winslet plays a naive young mother who lakes her two young daughters on the happe trait to Morocco in the early 1970s. Beaustufly shot film by Griess MacKimon with Saud Taghmaour, Beita Riza and Carrie Mulan.

PECKER (15): John Waters's salut on the art world lacks his usual bits but there are enough bad-lasts mo-ments to keep the humour bubbling. SHAKESPEARE IN LOVE (15): Thirling romantic cornecty with a cracking script by Marc Norman and Tom Stoppard, Gwyneth Paltrowi excess as the Bard's cross-dressing muse, John Madden directs.

Auntie's rules of war

hen Orson Welles present-ed H.G. Wells's War of the Worlds on steam radio, he famously sent crowds out in panic on to the American streets, thinking the Martians had really invaded. If the medium was as potent as that in the 1930s, couldn't it have been used to greater moral and political purpose by the BBC when Hitler's persecution of the Jews was becoming ever more obvious and violent?

That is the question at the core of Stephen Poliakoff's Talk of the City and, despite several weak spots in its fabric, the result is a play which nicely illustrates that fine dramatist's knack for finding an unusual topic and fascinating you with it. From the start it is clear that the institution Reith built will not easily be put to even mildly radical uses. It is 15 years old, and already exudes ersatz venerability. The sound of kissing on air is forbidden, smoking in the building a sacking offence. The announcers are required to sound uninvolved in a polite, staccato sort of way. since the listeners need to be reassured that the news is as remote from their

Talk of the City Young Vic

THEATRE

lives as, let's say, that faraway country Czechoslovakia is from their living rooms. Television permits greater freedom - but who cares? The irony is that so few people watch the strange new medium that, unlike the wireless, it is "free from prying eyes".
Poliakoff, who also directs, has a ter-

rific time evoking the youth of an Auntie who was never young, and, in particular, recreating the sort of variety show that then might have been permissible: songs. invisible dance, jokes, affable chatter with celebrities and, weirdly flung in, bits of detective thriller. Indeed, it is the host of one of these rambling programmes who gives him his plot. David Westhead's smiling, sa-loon-bar Robbie is gradually drawn into the force-field of Angus Wright's splendidly disdainful, incisive Clive, and persuaded to use his growing celebrity to expose the anti-Semitic atrocities unrolling in Germany.

That bureaucracy, political caution, fear of giving offence, commercial pressures and what used to be called "repressive tolerance" combine to make this endeavour difficult is the least of the play's surprises. The true oddity is that, within the tyrannical BBC that Poiakoff postulates. Robbie succes exploiting the possibilities of live performance as long and mischievously as he does. Moreover, isn't the appearance of a German-Jewish lover an implausibly convenient way of converting him to political activism? And would the kind of protest he and Clive have in mind really have changed much in an era when, as Poliakoff also shows, insularity and appeasement rule?

But even though some characters are more rewarding than others - Kelly Hunter seems especially shortchanged as a young woman working for that remarkable period enterprise. Mass Observation - Poliakoff's RSC cast transfers well from Stratford's Swan. And if the play has its inconsistencies and untidinesses, it remains engrossing, stimulating and, I'd suggest. timely. Television has brought the BBC still greater power. Does it use that power wisely, responsibly, constructively and well in the late 1990s?

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his joyous production of a new X 7 musical based on Goldsmith's She Stoops to Conquer shows the National Youth Music Theatre once again threatening to beat the professionals at their own game. For pure enjoyment this is every bit as good as its recent Bugsy Malone, which won a West End transfer last year.

The conceit of Goldsmith's great

farce is that a man who cuts a swaggering dash with the wenches at the inn can become a gibbering wreck in polite female company. How to get him together with his intended, the genteel but minx-like Miss Kate Hardcastle? And how to marry his friend to her cousin, in the teeth of Mrs Hardcastle's itchy-palmed opposition? By a string of improbable coincidences, naturally, which have him believing that her home is an inn, and her father its keeper. Cue endless misunderstandings.

Charles Hart's witty book and lyrics take a fair few liberties with the original, but he easily keeps the exuberant good humour intact. Howard

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Goodall's attractive score moves from melodious mellowness to rumbustious revelry with assurance; the young band is note-perfect. The direction and choreography are full of lively detail. Hardly a second passes without some

inspired buffoonery or delicate nuance. The cast of 16 to 20-year-olds are energetically enthusiastic and focused. Seventeen-year-old Gina Beck as Kate Hardcastle, squealing away with puretoned glee and quivering with perfectly articulated emotion, is highly promis-

scallywag who sets the whole scenario going, and Alexander Hassell as Charles Marlow, manically mugging away with painful awkwardness as Kate's reluctant beau, are capable physical comedians. So, too, are Neil Clench and Jess Brooks as the parents: Brooks in particular, playing 50 at 17, brings off the rather common Mrs Hardcastle with swooping vocal pyrotechnics. A latecomer to the part, with a bit more practice she will be perfect.

But it's really unfair to single anyone out Each minor character has a moment in the spotlight; and the choruses are every bit as good. You can't put a quaver between them. Maybe the ending is a bit loose, and the crescendo at the end of the first half slightly forced; maybe one or two characters lack a bit of weight, and there was the occasional sign of nerves. But it all has the absolutely appropriate feel of a merry, bawdy dance. A treat.

NIGEL CLIFF

Author, author author This play is billed as by Patrick Miles. But forvers get about that. You may forget about the production too, which is by an outfit named Weaver-Hughes En

tion too, which is by an outility named Weaver-Hughes En semble, but first things first The play is actually by Chek-

hov and is called Ivanov but you will search the six pages of the programme in vain for this author's name. In Chekhov's play, as in this one attributed to Mr Miles, Sara is Ivanov's Jewish wife, who becomes a Christian out of love for him, is cursed by her parents and dies of TB between Acts III, and IV, having also lived arei-ty miserably in Acts I are 11. Note what the press release tells us about this piece: "Focusing on Sara's story rather than Ivanov's, using music and symbols from contempo-

rary culture, this challenging work invites questions about Chekhov, theatre, racism and women's roles in society." In that statement are eight examples of what I think Churchill called terminological inexactitudes. Let them pass. What I won't let pass is Miles's gall in foisting upon us little more than a straight translation and pasting his name on to it.

If I persuaded a fringe theatre to stage a play called Ophe-lia by Jeremy Kingston, a lal-lenging work that invites ques-tions about Shakespeare etc. an audience would expect some Stoppard-like interpenetration of the text focusing upon Polonius's daughter. After all, other people have done this sort of thing. Someone wrote a play about two Englishmen prowling among the cherry trees prospecting for Fuller's earth (they get a passing mention in Chekhov's Act
IV), and there is a play called
Mrs Vershinin, telling the story from her point of view.

What audiences at my Ophelia would not countenance is a ulation of the familiar five acts all the way from "Who's there?" to "Go, bid the soldiers shoot." I noticed a couple of changes from the original Ivanov. Idiotically, the st page of Act I is lifted from its proper place and dumped in the middle of the following act.

The guests at Lebedev's party walk off, carrying their vodka glasses and flower-painted teacups, and on come Sara and Dr Lvov. Chat chat, then off they go and back come the Lebedev lot. It's meaningless. Ivanov's suicide is cut and the play simply fades out.

Timothy Hughes (director) appears to have ordered the cast to keep moving, so round and round they go, clonk clonk. Shows this feeble give the Fringe a bad name.

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Hark the Sunday Herald

The brash newcomer needs substance as well as style, says Magnus Linklater

hat research have you done, Mr Max-well, to convince you that there's a market for this new paper?" Robert Maxwell - for it was he - beamed broadly. "It's all in here," he said, pointing to his ample girth. Gut instinct, he assured the interviewer, was a better guide than focus groups or market surveys. Alas, he was wrong. Five months later the London Daily News was dead and buried, having failed to find an

As the Editor of that short-lived paper, I experienced a strong sense of déjà vu last weekend as I watched another launch, this time a Sunday broadsheet, published in Glasgow. The Sunday Herald, billed as "noordinarysunday" is competing, like the Daily News

once did, against a well-established rival in a crowded market.

There is another parallel. The boss of that rival is the same man who saw off the Daily News back in 1987. Bert Hardy, formerly managing director of the Evening Standard le nove chief averaging of the Standard le nove chief ard, is now chief executive of Scotsman Publications, owners of Scotland on Sunday, which has a tenyear start on the new arrival. Watching his tactics in the forthcoming battle will be at least as fascinating as studying the character of the new paper itself.
The Scottish Media Group, pub-

lishers of the Sunday Herald and owners of Scottish Television as well as the 200-year-old Glasgow daily, The Herald, claim, unlike Mr Maxwell, to have done their homework and detected that

famous "gap in the market".

Although Scottish readers have access to no fewer than 12 Sunday papers, six of them broadsheet, the

west of Scotland is said to be ripe. for exploitation. Scotland on Sunday, printed in Edinburgh, and with a circulation of 130,000, sells only a third of that in Glasgow and Strathclyde, which has, neverthe-less, half of Scotland's population,

By this calculation, a young, affluent ABC readership is still being poorly served by indigenous papers; with the build-up to a Scottish parliament and growing interest in Scottish affairs time is ripe for a new, intelligent Sunday. That, at least, is the theory.

Reality began last weekend. Setkeanty began last weekend, Sej-ting itself a target of 50,000, the Sunday Herald printed 200,000 and, despite production and distri-bution problems, sold 130,000 — not a bad start. Interestingly, none of its rivels including The Sunday of its rivals, including The Sunday Times and Scotland on Sunday, experienced much of a dip.

Clearly readers were giving the arrival a try-out. Mr Hardy's response has been to promote his paper in the run-up to the launch. but not to start a price war — as he did in London by launching a downmarket Evening News.
The first Issue of the Herald was

certainly lively, colourful and eager to please. Proclaiming itself "a new independent newspaper for an excit-ing new Scotland", its front-page masthead and contents panel had seven different colours, with Sunday in blue and Herald in orange. The body text and headlines, however, were more elegant, something like the Independent on Sunday. It boasted six sections, although one, on inspection, turned out to be its website, "interactive" with readers during the week.

By calling itself the Herald, the paper is signalling its attachment to Glasgow and bidding for read-

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Exclusive: Manson v The Mafia Drugs racket explodes a monster myth

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Blair's promise: real power for new Scotland

Jordan swears in new king

The Sunday Herald's lively, colourful launch issue sold 130,000 copies. Over the weeks ahead, the test of the paper will be the strength of its editorial content

ers of the daily. One challenge will be to win these over and open up a younger market. The national trend would appear to be against it. Sunday papers are in decline down by 4 per cent last year.

New papers always strive to launch with a strong exclusive sto-ry. The Herald claimed no fewer than seven. But not all lived up to expectations. Leading on an interview with Tony Blair was safe but unexciting, and to learn that Monica Lewinsky will be including Scotland on her book-promotion tour is

exclusive only in that no one else has yet bothered to report it. The Editor, Andrew Jaspan, has

decided to include business in his first section and has left analysis and comment to the second, called Seven Days. The grounds, presumably, are that Glasgow's business readership will be drawn into the paper early on. The effect, however, is to bring the "flow" of that all important first section to an abrupt end. As the paper evolves, it might be

better to effect a discreet swap and leave business till later. The paper

has two tabloid sections, a lifestyle directory and a sports section. Sport, of course, is vital for any paper, doubly so in Glasgow, and putting Celtic on the front was presumably a none-too-subtle signal that this was not going to be another Rangers-supporting paper. But surely Scotland's rugby triumph over Wales was the story of the day. By confining that to inside pages, it

was losing out on news impact.

The mood in the paper is upbeat. "We've been bowled over by the positive feedback," said the deputy editor, Rob Brown. But it has had its first staff upset. The foreign editor. Patrick Small, left abruptly on Monday after an altercation over the quality and production of his pages. Meanwhile, at Scotland on Sun-

day, Mr Hardy is keeping his pow-der dry. "The launch was certainly a success," he said, "but the paper did not live up to expectation. It had no news, the magazine was poor, and sport was very weak. We intend to attack them on sport. By the fifth week we should know who's come out on top."

The test of the paper over those weeks will be the strength of its editorial content rather than the gimmicks, the design, or the colour.

The Herald has some good writers

— lain McWhirter on politics, Kirsty Milne from the New Statesman, Andrew O'Hagan from The Guardian - but it will need to demonstrate that it has substance as well as style. A good start, then, but this fledgeling still has a lot to prove. And across in Edinburgh, a seasoned campaigner will be watching for any signs of weakness.

Has C4 faked again?

■ ANOTHER Channel 4 programme, Guns on the Street, part of an Undercover Britain series, is under investigation. The network confirms that its lawyers are investigating how the material, showing the trade in illegal sub-machineguns, was obtained after allegations were made about it. The programme was screened in March 1996 and Channel 4 has interviewed the production company, Ray Fitzwalter Associates, headed by a former World in Action editor and a leader of the Campaign for Quality in Television. The truth, and whether the producers were duped, has yet to be resolved.

■ HERE'S my suggestion to stamp out rogue practices. TV companies could set up a "failure fund" so that independent producers, terrified of go-

ing bust when documentaries fall at the barrier of truth, could receive compensation. As Carlton Television's new director of programmes, Steve "Mr Clean" Hewlett, formerly of Channel 4, noted at a Royal Television Society debate this week, independent producers — small, under-financed, often staffed by untrained peo-ple — are expected to uphold the dignity of

television: "If a commissioning editor asks for green leopards and red bananas, someone will come along and deliver it .. 60 per cent of programmes are oversold and underdelivered." ■ THE Royal Television Society debate

heard about all sorts of scams. A recent BBC wildlife programme fronted by Sir David Attenborough about polar bears, with a sequence of him talking about a polar giving birth deep beneath the Arctic crust, actually fed into the "emotional truth" of a mummy bear, in labour. . . at a comfy Belgian zoo. A sharp-eyed Times reader. Joyce Woodcock, wrote to say how she watched BBC highlights from the Mel-bourne tennis tournament, with commentary by Sue Barker against skyscrapers, only to see her reporting on the European

skating championships with a view of Prague's bridges and spires in the back-ground 45 minutes later. "Now I call that cheating," she says.

WHAT do A.A. Gill, Victor Lewis-Smith, Charlie Catchpole, Peter Paterson, Tony Purnell, Brian Viner, Ian Parker, Paul Hoggart, Desmond Christie, Matthew Bond, Christopher Dunkley, Robert Hanks, Joe Joseph and Andrew Billen have in common? They all write television reviews for national newspapers or weeklies. And they're all men.

Nancy Banks-Smith still pops up at The Guardian, Allison Pearson was a great critic and Jaci Stephen, soon to become The Mail on Sunday's new critic, is

on top form ... but there's a real sexual im-

balance here. Do men write best about

Much the same pertains in film. Peter Bradshaw, the talented Evening Standard

writer who penned "Alan Clarke's Diaries", is joining *The Guardian* as film critic, replacing Richard Williams, who re-

placed Derek Malcolm. It's all down to the

power structure of newspapers, I suspect.

AS IT edges on to the March relaunch

pad, The Mail on Sunday is gaining an

entirely new centre features section and a

revamped Night & Day magazine under

a new editor. Christena Appleyard. Dubbed "TV Times" by insiders, it prom-

television? Or just get the jobs?

THE reporting of BSkyB's results by dry City journalists left out a key detail: the forthcoming television-based Internet service will be operated with a £30 keyboard, like a laptop crossed with a remote control, allowing you to tap in short e-mails. With seven e-mail addresses per set, this will be a kids' delight. At last parents will be able to use their phones.

With BSkyB promising one million dig-ital homes by next October, I wonder how long ITV can refuse to join. In two thirds of Sky Digital homes ITV is watched less because of the bore of switching back to

CHERIE BOOTH recently hosted a launch event for The Community Channel, chaired by Barry Cox, the

Blairs' former neighbour and the deputy chairman of Channel 4. Tony floated in during the pro-ceedings, too. The aim is to twist £3.5 million from business spon-sors for the Media Trust's idea of giving charities their own digital television network.

LAST week I reported that five main commercial radio operators are furning at the way the Radio Authority, now issuing three to four new station li cences a month, is cutting them out. Tony Stoller, the authority's chief executive, points out that last Friday an Emapbacked group won the coveted new Cen-tral Scotland licence and Chrysalis won the North East licence last year, while GWR is a shareholder in a small new li-

cence for the Solent. But my main point stands. The big groups want the chairman, Sir Peter Gibbings, whose term ends this year, to be

A FIRST for Radio Times? Its front cover this week is given over to the Brit Awards... on ITV. Given that it is a BBC-owned magazine, I thought that it was supposed to give top billing only to its

Last year we made a

and a book and a video and a magazine and a CD-ROM and an audio cassette.....

Last year, BBC Worldwide, the commercial arm of the BBC, not only announced record sales and a record cashflow contribution back to the BBC*, but in 1998 we also received a record-breaking 40 industry awards for the creativity and excellence of our products.







From the BP NATURAL WORLD **BOOK PRIZE** for Attenborough's Life of Birds, the PPA MAGAZINE OF THEYEAR award for Top of the Pops, the EUROPEAN MULTIMEDIA AWARD for Best Science and Technology CD-ROM for the Human Body, TALKIE OF THE YEAR for

Ambush at Fort Bragg, the MARKETING SOCIETY BEST **NEW PRODUCT AWARD for** Telecubbies©, the RIAA (USA) **PLATINUM AWARD** for Led Zeppelin - BBC Sessions,

and the Video Home Entertainment award for the TOP BRITISH RETAIL COMPANY, the EUTELSAT **HOTBIRD AWARD** for Best Thematic Channel for BBC World.

and many more besides.

We would like to thank all our colleagues and partners both inside the BBC and outside, for helping us make last year a record year.

subbles characters and base ** & O 1996, Randoll Productions (LIK) Limited, Licensed by BSC Viloridavide Limited

the fourth quarter of 1998 show that the gap between commercial and BBC radio is

According to Rajar, the audi-

ence research organisation,

commercial radio has 49.3 per

cent of the listening share to

fourth quarter of 1997, commer-

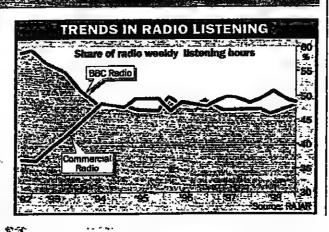
per cent to 47.9 per cent.

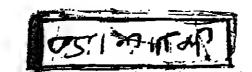
ises to be more glamorous and less lad-dish than the current product. Once it is safely airborne, the Editor-in-Chief, Paul Dacre, will turn his attention to London's Evening Standard.

RADIO listening figures for fourth quarter of 1998. Commercial radio's overall weekly reach also increased, by 0.2

per cent to 28.5 million. However, the national commercial stations' reach fell by 4.9 per cent to 11.18 million, while local commercial stations increased their reach by L4 per cent to 23.77 million.

the BBC's 48.5 per cent. In the MediaTel's online media in-formation and analysis servcial radio led the BBC by 49.5 ice is accessed via the Internet The weekly reach of all at http://www.mediatel.co.uk BBC stations rose by 0.6 per cent to 26.7 million in the (0171-139 7575).







Jesse Armstrong, left, and Sam Bain, the unknown writers behind ITV's new sitcom Days Like These. "In America, entering a career of sitcom writing is like going into the City"

Comedy the American way

t's straight out of an enisode of Seinfeld. Two chancers with scarcely a crumb of sitcomwriting experience between them get a call out of the blue to go to a swish hotel to meet the bosses of an American TV comedy hothouse.

The execs are looking for raw and fresh talent to work on one of their shows. Our two heroes, whose sole on-air credits are a few gags for a breakfast show presenter, are so nervous that they can scarcely totter along the pavement to the hotel. Outside the hotel suite they notice a bundle of unsolicited scripts submitted by some of the biggest names in comedy writing. They take a huge gulp of air and knock on the door ...

That's the situation Sam Bain from West London and Jesse Armstrong from Shropshire found themselves in last June. Their meeting was with the chiefs of Carsey-Werner, creators of the Cosby Show and Roseanne, and the project was a £2.5 million adaptation for British TV of an American sitcom, That 70's Show.

We had no idea how to pitch ourselves," admits Armstrong. "We didn't know whether they wanted us to say 'Wow, we love the original so much that we're not going to change any of the lines', or 'We love the characters so much that we're going to rewrite the whole thing'.

They ended up adopting a middle position, which is evidently what the Can two British unknowns and American comedy experts produce a much-needed hit for ITV? Rajan Datar reports

Americans wanted because Armstrong and Bain got the job. "I think it helped that we laughed hard very hard — at all their jokes," says Bain candidly.

Nine months down the line, Days Like These is ready to be unleashed on a British audience, with the first episode making a prime-time appearance on the ITV network tonight. The show, set in a 1976 pre-punk period of decaying hippiedom, focuses on a group of bored, sexually obsessed enagers and their relationships.

On the basis of watching one early episode, I have to say that it is not very good. On a good day, the overall impression would be knowing, ironic, post-modern even. On a bad day the programme resembles nothing more than a British Brady Bunch.

But even if my view were to be shared by the great British viewing public, there are two reasons why this show may avoid the comedy dustbin. First, because of the unprecedented investment of faith and cash. The show has, unusually, been granted a first run of 13 programmes — twice the normal length for a debut sixtom. which may allow time for the characters to establish themselves with a core audience. And secondly because own rules. We have been put in a posi-

Armstrong and Bain are, in effect, the guinea-pigs in a new Anglo-American experiment in nurturing comedy-writing talent.

It involves Carsey-Werner can veterans of the team-writing approach (used to write Friends, Frasier and Seinfeld) being hired by ITV's Network Director, David Liddiment, to deliver a much-needed hit. They choose to co-opt two inexperienced twentysomethings to translate their scripts to a British audience rather than using their own seasoned American professionals to do the job.

At Armstrong's Clapham flat, the affable duo explain to me that this is the first step in a process of learning their craft — an opportunity that has never been afforded to other fledgeling British writers. "In the US," says Bain, "entering a career of sitcom writing is like going into the City — you can earn a heck of a lot of money." Armstrong elucidates: "There's a career structure there - you join the team, you do your 'spec script', you become a baby writer and then you work your way up to become a head writer on a show such as Seinfeld. It's a career option. Whereas here, up till now, you had to make up your

tion because at an early stage in our career we're getting to learn all about the production of the show. We have got a chance to become British baby

Apart from enjoying Carsey-Werner's patronage, their scripts for Days Like These are in the safe hands of Bob Spiers and John Bartlett, veteran makers of such British comedy hits as Fawlty Towers. Absolutely Fab-ulous and Goodnight Sweetheart.

The intention is to create a mainstream hit, something that British TV has been lacking, say Bain and Armstrong. 'The problem with British sitcom is that there's a schism between not very good mainstream stuff and these pockets of inspiration on latenight BBC2 and Channel 4, such as Alan Partridge and Father Ted. which are cult hits. What we're trying

to do is redefine the mainstream." If nothing else, Bain and Armstrong, who met on a creative writing course at Manchester University, are refreshingly optimistic. In this way they do resemble the "Ivy Leaguers" in the US — the smart college gradu-ates who make up so many of the junior ranks of hit-show comedy writing

INCHA Y ILLUT

teams across the Atlantic Apparently it was this same kind of "can do" attitude that endeared them to Carsev-Werner in the first place.

Long haired, bespectacled and the more laid-back of the two, Bain has attempted to write a novel, which he admits "didn't get anywhere", while temping as a secretary. Armstrong, meanwhile, worked for the Labour Party before falling victim to the party's success - his position as Doug Henderson's assistant was supplanted by a civil servant when the MP became Minister for the Armed Forces after the election.

They came together again, writing gags for Johnny Vaughan on the Big Breakfast Show as well as material for Not the Jack Docherty Show on Channel 5. If all goes well, Armstrong and Bain hope the next series of Days Like These will be commissioned as a 22-parter which will bring it in line with the American model. although the aim is not to base the new episodes so much on existing storylines. Did they resent, just a lit-tle, having to studiously follow the exact structure of the American version for the first series?

"Oh no, we're very pleased and a lot more wealthy than we were last year. And if people don't like it, we can just say that it wasn't our idea!"

Days Like These begins at 8.30pm tonight on ITV.

Giving the market past a future

Raymond Snoddy on the salvation of History Today

he popular historical magazine History Today, which broke such stories as the "mercy killing" of George V, has been saved for posterity for the second time.

The three private shareholders who own the magazine, which was founded in 1951 by Brendan Bracken. the chairman of the Finan-cial Times, have decided to forgo the £1 million they might have received for it through a sale. instead, they are to set up an educational trust and, over time, the shareholders' rights will be extinguished without financial competition.
It would have been possi-

ble to sell the magazine to a good home, but publishing groups are subject to take-over and to sudden swings in philosophy," Hugh Ste-phenson told readers of the current issue in a statement on behalf of the owners.

Mr Stephenson, a former Editor of the New Statesman, is one of the three shareholders. The others are John Jackson, the chairman of the leisure group Ladbroke and of the law firm Mishoon de Reya, and Jerry Kuehl, an American television producer.

What we have done, we have done with our eyes open," says Mr Stephenson: The three bought History Today from Pearson, the owners of the Financial Times, for £1 in 1981. Longman, the Pearson subsidi-ary that published the magazine, had tried to sell it and failed, and the closure date had been set.

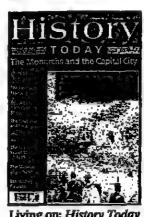
Soon after the magazine was released from the overheads of a large group. Mr Stephenson says, it became profitable. Its premises were above a pornography shop. now a restaurant, in Soho.

n 1997 the little company, which also publishes History Review, a publication aimed at A-level history students, made a profit of £63,000 on a turnover of £921,000, and similar profits are expected for 1998 when accounts are finalised. Since the three took over, History Today's circulation has grown from 10,000 to more than 30,000.

Over the years the glossy, well-illustrated publication has had many stories that have made headlines in the national press. Perhaps the most dramatic was that of George V. In 1986 History Today published the notes of Lord Dawson, the King's doctor, disclosing that the King's death was hastened by a lethal injection, not only to ease pain but to enable the news to make the morning papers "rather than the less appropriate evening journals". Dawson advised the Editor of The Times to stand by for late news and, next morning. The Times headline proclaimed "A peaceful ending at midnight".

The current issue reveals that Leopold Amery, the Conservative politician who was instrumental in bring-ing down Chamberlain's Government in 1940, had hidden the fact that his mother was Jewish. The magazine notes that despite concealing his Jewish identity, he nevertheless supported Jewish causes whenever

Other articles in the current issue range from a review of the first sex manuals, to the Cold War in Afri-



Living on: History Today

ca and education in the 15th century. The magazine has also taken part in the debate about the teaching of history at university and whether "pick and mix" degrees that deal with many discreet topics produce graduates who lack background knowledge on the history of Western civilisation.

Since January 1998, History Today has been edited by Peter Furtado with a staff of eight.

The three owners, who are all in their sixties, were worried about the "uncertainties" that would be created if one of their number died and the shares passed to someone else who might not be greatly interested in the future of the magazine.

The first meeting of the History Today Trust will be held this month, with the three shareholders as the only three trustees. The aim is to appoint additional trustees later this year. Voting rights and effective ownership will gradually pass to the new trust until it has 100 per cent control.

Mr Jackson said that taking on the magazine had been "a genuine act of conservation" which had given a lot of pleasure and had

Metro editor sacked before launch

■ TURMOIL at Metro, the new free paper for London planned by Associated Newspapers. The Editor, Kim Chapman, has been forced to step down less than a month before the launch, to be replaced by Ian McGregor, an assistant editor on the Daily Mail. Press Gazette reports that Paul Dacre, Associated's Editor-in-Chief, thought that Chapman's dummies were not sophisticated enough for the target market of under-35 commuters. She was hired for the project from the Reading Evening Post, where she had been Editor.

THE Radio Authority is under fresh attack

for the way it awards licences, Broadcast reports. Five failed bidders for licences in Hampshire wrote this week to Chris Smith, the Culture Secretary, complaining of "political influence" in the awards, one of which went to a company headed by a local MP. After complaints that

other awards were handled improperly, Janet Leet, the RA's deputy head of programming, was suspended in December.

■ THE telephone services watchdog lestis is to clamp down on ads for phone sex services in men's magazines. Marketing Week says the committee is to rule whether some of the ads in titles such as loaded and FHM are unsuitable in magazines that are not kept on the newsagents' top shelves. If the complaints are upheld, the phone service providers not the magazines - could be fined.

■ COMMERCIALLY sponsored Christmas lights may be barred from London's West End after complaints about last year's displays, says Marketing Week. Westminster

City Council has asked traders to seek new means of funding because the Tango and Bird's Eye logos offended shoppers.

REVAMPS/RELAUNCHES: The Mail on Sunday reorganises its magazines and adds review section to attract young readers (Media Week). Yorkshire Post gets extra pages and new typography: The Express on Sunday reverts to its former title, Sunday Erpress; National Magazines' Home reposi-tioned in middle market to compete directly with House Beautiful (Press Gazette).

> CHANGING FACES: Martin Sixsmith, a former BBC reporter, leaves the DSS to head media relations at GEC; Anne Leroy-Sanguinnetti. of the Paris HQ of Air France, will be communications manager in London (PR Week). Liz Jones leaves The Sunday Times to edit

Marie Claire: Richard Brooks of The Observer is to be arts editor of The Sunday Times: Eric Bailey leaves The Sunday Telegraph to be executive editor of The Mail on Sunday (Press Gazette). Kevin Shute of Mills & Allen joins CIA Medianetwork as business development director (Media Week).

■ GETTING THE BUSINESS: Duckworth Finn Grubb Waters wins BhS creative account from Saatchi & Saatchi; Craik Jones is to handle marketing for Rover's Mini (Campaign). Banking group HSBC appoints Lowe & Partners Worldwide for its £150 million global ad account; WCRS awarded £45 million account by BUPA (Marketing).

MICHAEL LEAPMAN

The euro is still off-message

ALTHOUGH most of Britain's national daily newspapers have waged an often senophobic campaign against European monetary union, an opinion poll in The Guardian yesterday showed that support for joining the euro in Brit-

ain has "surged" to its highest level.
ICM found that 52 per cent remain in the Eurosceptic camp but that the number who would vote yes in a referendum has jumped by seven points in the past month to 36 per cent. That poll and a new research study

published this week by Carma (Computer Aided Research and Media Analysis, whose di-ents include BT. British Airways, Microsoft and Coca-Cola) raise again the intriguing question of whether voters are influenced by what they read in their newspapers.

The usual answer is that any link between newspaper campaigns and voting has never been proved but most of us believe in our bones, as do their editors, that the relentlessly hostile spin on euro stories in The Sun and Mail must surely influ-

ence how some of their readers vote. That spin is the main theme of the Carma study, which analysed 1.695 articles in the British national press and 1,702 in the French national press between May and January. Its conclusion is that the spin on the euro in British newspapers obscured the crucial issues involved in the launch of the

euro, especially for businesses. Sandra Macleod, the European managing director of Carma, says that the euro has been a "political football". with newspapers focused on the debate over whether to join instead of driving

The single currency has got a bad press, but does that really influence voters?

home the crucial messages that would have enabled voters and businesses to be better prepared and informed. "If a newspaper's primary function

is to inform, several in the UK concentrated too much on backing their own political horses while doing very little to shed proper light on a subject about which there is still great ignorance, to the detriment of their read-

ers," the report says. The FT, International Herald Tribune and The Wall Street Journal (Europe) shared with the French business press the most neutral and balanced coverage and devoted almost twice as much space to the euro.

The research showed that British broadsheets were more balanced than the tabloids (see table). The Times published 216 articles headlined EMU or

Euro, and there were 217 in The Daily Telegraph (with the Telegraph alone accounting for one in five of William

Hague's appearances). In The Times, 27 per cent were favourable to 32 per cent unfavourable; in The Daily Telegraph the ratio was 20 to 44. The Independent (40 to 26) and The Guardian (31 to 23) were more inclined to be favourable. The papers with the highest proportion of balanced coverage were the FT (44), The Times (41), The Guardian (40), The Daily Telegraph (36) and The Inde-pendent (34).

The contrast with the British tab-

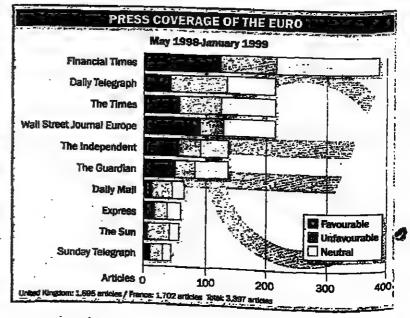
loids was stark. Under its slogan "The Pound in Peril". The Sun has been the most hostile of the British newspapers. Out of 56 articles, only five per cent were construed as favourable against 68 per cent unfavourable, with the ratio in the Daily Mail at 14 to a sceptical 57. Even The Express, whose proprietor Lord Hollick is a noted European enthusiast, had twice as many unfavourable headlines as favourable.

Yesterday's Guardian poll showed that women were far more hostile to the euro than men and that opposition is strongest among working class semiskilled and manual DE voters, a con-

stituency where The Sun has 1.7 million readers and the Mail has 437,000 On its present course, The Sun will therefore be a powerful opponent of Tony Blair when he announces a referendum: only last month in a You the Jury poll, 12,000 Sun readers delivered a vote of 94 per cent against joining a single currency.

That opposition may explain why Alastair Campbell, Blair's press secretary, told the Fabian Society this week that almost every political debate in Britain was conducted in terms that fos-

Europe was an issue that the British press painted in largely sensationalist terms, he said. "Illusion leads to to a pessimistic sense that change is disappointment leads to cynicism leads



Past a fur Hands off Blue Peter

presenters. It talks to children on their own terms and they love it, says Maggie Brown

n Monday the departing Blue Peter presenter Stuart Miles tossed a mini hand grenade at this 40-year-old television treasure. A publicity stuntnot entirely divorced from his search for a new job. He declared that the programme must become "more relevant, less twee, more hard-hitting".

He wants it to divorce itself for ever

from the legacy of its greatest former editor. Biddy Baxter, still working part-time as an adviser for the BBC, whose spirit hovers over its staple items about animals, making things and aspiring to do good for others.

So what was the Miles recipe for Blue Peter's survival in the new millennium? It should do more about drugs, eating disorders and bullying.

When I read his thoughts, two of the most repeatable words that popped into my head were "good riddance". But I write this article with two layers of knowledge. Although I am a busy media journalist, I am based at home and two of my children, aged five and nine, watch Blue Peter.

It is not perfect but it is on their wavelength. How do I know? Because they remember to turn it on week after week. And I see them acting on its sug-gestions. One key bit of evidence sits on my husband's bedside table. His Christmas present from the nine-yearold, a pot decorated with paper, was carefully crafted as instructed by a seasonal Blue Peter edition. The result is something that pocket money cannot

But as a media journalist of 19 years' standing, I also watch the ratings and acknowledge that no programme can

This week Blue Peter gained a new editor, Steve Hocking, 37. We spoke soon after his appointment. He made it clear that he planned alterations. There have been extensive discussions within the BBC about evolutionary change to keep the programme fun, energetic and relevant.

Hocking's task is to ensure that it keeps faith with its audience, telling children that they can aspire to jump out of aeroplanes and to listen to classical music as well as pop.

As a former teacher, a father of three children and a school governor living in an Oxfordshire village, he is rooted. His vision is far removed from the trendy nonsense spouted by twenty-

something presenters.

Hocking dislikes the move towards rebranding Blue Peter as BP. BP is now for petrol stations. He also told the that he planned regular "literary" slots. When I watched Blue Peter on Monday, there, on his first programme,



Blue Peter presenters Konnie Hug, Stuart Miles and Katy Hill publicise the evergreen show's latest appeal

was an item about the top-selling au-

thor J.K. Rowling.
On Wednesday night's programme. his second, came another initiative: children can win a Blue Peter badge by finding an interesting place in their locality and presenting an item about it: the first one was about a lighthouse.

What did Hocking think about the Miles agenda? "I feel quite angry about Blue Peter being branded twee and cautious. My feeling is that we [the BBC] make a lot of programmes which deal explicitly with these [drugs, bullying, etc] issues. But the seven to ten-year-old child the target Blue Peter audiencel is fully entitled to have a programme, whatever his or her domestic circumstances, that is positive and encourages them to have ambition.

"The items that children like most on Blue Peter are about cooking, making things and pets. I am quite prepared to aggressively defend the right of children to have a factual, entertaining magazine programme on their own

Blue Peter has run an item on drugs on its own terms: it showed how sniffer dogs are used to find illegal hoards. It does review films, but bands appear only if they are prepared to sing live. And then there are the appeals: Blue Peter is currently collecting aluminium to

help to build schools in Mozambique. What crude ratings do not show is that the programme has extended its influence since 1996, with repeats at breakfast time on BBC2. It attracts 47 per cent of the child audience, against 7

per cent for The Big Breakfast. In the aitermoon, it holds on to 36 per cent of

My biggest recent criticism relates to last year, when the presenter Richard Bacon was sacked for taking drugs. The head of children's programmes, Lorraine Heggessey, dressed in black, went on air as the programme started, to give an explanation.

I was in my study. The children rushed in. "Come quickly, we think someone has died," they said. The Richard Bacon morality tale went complete ly over their heads. This is because, despite folk memories of John Noakes. Valerie Singleton et al, Blue Peter presenters are not as important as they think they are.

The show, Stuart Miles, is the star.

The reason I had to buy a Volvo

dvertising took an-other pounding this laid some of the blame for its poor profits announcement at the door of its John Cleese advertising cam-paign. There were also dark mutterings about Rover's advertising in the light of its

slump in market share. In the Sainsbury's case, there is little doubt that John Cleese hectoring us about the supermarket chain's low prices got up some viewers' noses. However, shoppers have not rejected the store. They have been coming through the doors - but once inside, they've been buying cheaper items. Funny that, since this was the theme of the ad campaign. Rover's ads

were panned last year for jumping on the Cool Britannia" bandwagon with inappropriate products the Rover 200 and 400) just as

the bubble of that notion was about to burst. But it is impossible not to have some sympathy for Rover's ad agency as it searches for any special attributes on which to hang a campaign.

It is worth contrasting the muddled advertising of both Rover and Sainsbury's with the clarity of strategy and witty execution seen in a new ad campaign close to my heart - that for the restyled Volvo V40.

Actually, it was closer to my wallet than my heart when I bought a Volvo V40 estate last year. As someone who cannot tell his torque from his Torquemada, 1 accept that I am susceptible to the wiles of a clever car advertising campaign. This time last year,

though, the V40 had not been advertised. All I knew estate-car bullet. We'd had two babies in a year and could not fit the double buggy in the boot of our Volkswagen Golf (1 know that is boring, but so many purchasing decisions are made for boring reasons).

I also knew that my wife held a deep-rooted anti-Volvo prejudice that came from growing up surrounded by "coffins on wheels" in the Cotswolds — and also that the new V40 had been voted the world's most beautiful estate car by an Italian car magazine (the ad agency told me).

But from advertising campaigns I had gleaned that the Audi A4 Avant was attractive and not too big, and

was made by the company that advertises itself as a maker of yuppie cars for non-yuppies. So we went off to buy one of those.

What the ads did not say was that if you are 6ft 4in tall and the seat is adjusted to your driving position, you cannot fit a child seat in the space behind. Dismayed, we turned to

the Volkswagen Passat, born (so the ads told me) from the "obsession" of VW engineers, as reliable as all Volkswagens, and selling at a surprisingly ordinary price. Fine if you could wait from six to nine months for delivery. We could not.

So, with me arguing that Volvo had changed (remem-ber all those wild Tony Kaye commercials?) we walked into a Volvo showroom.

There we found a car as at

even my driving position -oh, and it had a safety cage and was £5,000 cheaper than the Audi. Of course, none of this mat-

home in Soho as in Burford:

in which the child seat would fit snugly behind

tered. The salesman had begun by saying that the new V40 had been voted the most beautiful estate car in the world by an Italian car magazine. We didn't listen to another word he said and drove home smugly in a deep blue V40 with funky wheelcaps and heated seats. Please don't ask me how many litres the engine capacity is.

We then had to deal with the opprobrium heaped on our heads by single London and knowing

> Volvo owners. That was until those lovely peo-ple at Abbott Mead Vickers BBDO came up with a series of television commercials.

In one ad, a dog idles down a street, peeing on hubcaps until it comes to the V40, which is too beautiful to pee on. In another we see a V40 parked outside a remote, snow-covered house in Sweden while the couple within try to make babies with which to fill the car.

n a third, all we see are two headlights making their way serenely through a foggy landscape. The tagline is "After all, looks aren't everything."

All three ads feature a small reminder that the Volvo V40 was judged "the most beautiful estate car in the world" by an Italian car magazine.

It just shows how slight an advertising idea can be and still work, and how vital it is that advertising contains a clearly communica-

ble idea. We may have bought our Volvo because the Passat was out of stock, the car seat fitted and it was five grand cheaper than the Audi, but no one now need ever know.

We may be covered in nappy cream and baby sick; and we may only need to buy a car because of a double bug gy, and have The wheels on the Bus on a loop in the car stereo, but we can be as shallow as anyone else. Goddam-

• Stefano Hatfield is the **Editor of Campaign**



How do you film sudden death? First mag for

Ian Taylor, director of a new series on Birmingham's coroner, spent 12 weeks with dead bodies and grieving relatives

t the end of the cul-de-sac is a door handle. We don't look too closely A police car. Behind it officers stand in the doorway of a semi. All around the close, neighbours are watching a curtained window. It's the front bedroom. Inside, a man has hanged himself.

I'm there with a film crew, about to go in. No, this is not a docusoap but The Coroner, a serious, old-fashioned documentary for Channel 4. We're following the work of the Birmingham Coroner and are about to enter the house with his officer to

see the deceased. I'm thinking many things at once — some pro-fessional, some selfish. Professionally, I'm aware that we are crossing boundaries. There will be questions asked about what is acceptable, about what is or is not in good taste. Selfishly. I'm thinking something quite different: Do I really want to see this? Isn't this the stuff of nightmares? And what kind of voyeur does it make me? Seeing dead bodies is one thing; to see someone who has hanged himself is like being

a witness to the act of death itself. But there isn't a lot of time to think and we follow the officers into the room. The cameraman knows the rules, drawn up over months of negotiation with the Birmingham Coroner. Dr Richard Whittington, No shots of bodies, save an occasional glimpse of a hand or foot to show that there is actually something there. We have our own rules, too, when it comes to suicides - no shots that might indicate how the suicide was carried out (for fear of copycats). In this case it is, fortunately, impossible to work out how it was done, even though you can see a rope tied to a

and just film what we have come to film — the coroner's officer at work. Like all such officers (there are eight in Birmingham, who investigate on behalf of the Coroner) Stephanie Stephens is a former police offic-

er. She is matter-of-fact in her questioning of the policeman in the eerie presence of the hanged man. This is not the first suicide she has come across. She waits for the coroner's undertakers to take the body away. When they arrive they are friendly and efficient. They collect up to 15 corps-

.We don't es a day, from houses, from hospitals, from road look too They take down the body, empty the pockets closely at and pack the corpse in a bag, the rope still around its neck. (The pathologist will remove it at the postmortem examination.) hanged It is only because of

changing attitudes to death that we are filming this at all. In the Sixties I man' was shocked, when travelling abroad, to see in a newspaper the photograph of a road accident victim. Back home this would have been unthinkable. Today, forget your road accident victim; you can see real car-

nage in a news report from Kosovo. Whether it is an advance is debatable, but in this case it has given us the opportunity to show for the first time the work of an important public service that, because it deals with a distasteful subject, has in effect remained a secret. It surprised me to learn that, in matters of death, it is the coroner, not the police, who provides citizens with greater protection

against injustice.



Peter Acland, a Home Office pathologist, investigates the cause of death

reported to the coroner, who then has a legal obligation to try to ascertain the cause of death. This reinforces the role of the police, who investigate a death only where there are signs, or suspicions, of foul play.

The broad scope of the coroner's remit means that our cases are remarkably varied - in a 17th-floor flat an identify the body. It was often on this The law requires all deaths for old woman has lain dead for a visit that we were obliged to make

stranger he brings home from the pub; a baby girl is found suffocated. We filmed for 12 weeks and could

not prepare anything in advance. This was observational filming at its most risky. Who would agree to be filmed? For most relatives the first visit to the coroner's office is formally to which a cause cannot be given to be month: a man is murdered by a our approach with a request to film. be on Channel 4 on Tuesday at 9pm. ket, which has existed for less and listings magazine Heat.

In retrospect I'm astonished at the number of families who agreed. The first approach would always be made by the Coroner's officer. If the relative agreed to meet me, I would then explain the purpose of the series. If they agreed to be filmed, we would go ahead there and then but would not assume that this represented permission to broadcast. They were then given time to consider (and withdraw) before signing a release, usually about a

We accepted that any participant who had later had a change of mind could withdraw at any time up until the films were passed for transmis-sion. One family chose to do so. Although the film was finished, their contribution was removed without protest and the film recut.

Why did people agree to be filmed? One family lost a 19-year-old son in a road accident. The parents agreed to donate his organs and felt that the publicity might produce some small good out of such a dreadful loss. They were well rewarded. The boy's aunt. who represented them at the inquest, ends that film with the most compelling advocacy for organ donorship I have heard. Another family had a grievance - a man with a history of mental illness had committed suicide in prison. He should have been in hospital, the family say. They feel the inquest denies them justice and feel that the publicity might help.

As to the rest, one can only guess. Perhaps they lelt that the recording of events somehow gave weight to them, lent occasion to something that might too soon be forgotten. Even the mother of the hanged man gave permission for the scene in the bedroom to be filmed. She was shown at the inquest sitting alone in a small room away from the main waiting area. She was ushered into court by a side door, anxious to avoid other family members who somehow held her responsible. In the event they abused her in the courtroom. Perhaps she just wanted us on her side. We were.

The first episode of The Coroner will

old new lads

Later will begin where Loaded left off, says Raymond Snoddy

will announce its higgest launch since last year's management buyout a magazine for the lads from Loaded and FHM who have finally grown up. The new mag-azine, to be launched in the spring, will be called Later and have a marketing budget of more than £2.5 million.

by the international information group Reed Elsevier, believes it revolutionised the young men's market in 1994 launch of Loaded and hopes to do so again. The publish-

IPC, sold off

ing director of Later. Andy McDuff, is the man launched Loaded — a maga-

IPC chief Mike Matthew zine aimed at "hedonistic young men who like to have 12 pints of lager and a kebab".

The new magazine will still be "sexy and entertaining" but will also recognise that now those readers are older, jobs are turning into careers and permanent relationships are starting to intrude.

The idea was brought to IPC by Phil Hilton, who edited Men's Health and will now

The men's magazine mar-

oday, IPC Magazines than a decade, has shown phenomenal growth, fuelled by the launch not just of Loaded but also of magazines such as FHM and Maxim. Maxim has already crossed the Atlantic and FHM is likely to follow later this year. Since 1995, the number of

copies sold in the sector has more than doubled to 1.5 million a month.

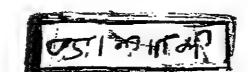
The sector's annual retail value has risen to 576 million. The existing readership is predominantly in the 18 to 24 age group. The could be considerable if it managed to "reach

the elusive older audience". . The target market for Later will be 25 to 40-year-old men, and IPC

claims that it will offer "a fresh agenda for men entering a new phase in their lives". IPC, under chief executive

Mike Matthew, believes that no existing magazine fills such a gap, and that both the concept and dummies of Later have researched well.

Later will be the second big consumer magazine launch so far this year. Earlier this month. Emap came out with one of its biggest launches the £5 million entertainment



jeting condi

Programmes that make a difference

Documentaries are under fire but Roger Graef has confidence in his. By Frances Gibb

interview

iming. Roger Graef believes, is all. Had it not been for what he calls an "accident of timing", female rape victims could still be facing insensitive handling by police. But his landmark documentary series on Thames Valley Police was broadcast in the early Eighties at a moment when rape was top of the news agenda; and the film proved a catalyst for changing police practice. Without that coincidence, the film might have disappeared without trace.

Search of Law and Or der, which targets the criminal justice system and how it deals with young offenders, is being screened on Channel 4, with the second programme going out on Sunday. For a long time the debate has been driv-

en by a simplified notion of what crime is and what makes people offend." he says. "Everyone likes having scapegoats . . . and the notion that individuals are evil and that punishing them hard enough will stop both them and others has a wonderful neatness to it." The media have played their part, he says. "Playing on people's fears sells

newspapers." The law and legal system is straitjacketed in its approach, often because there is no alternative, he says. "Judges know that their sentences are often pointless. They have no expectation that prison will rehabilitate, but in a climate that believes 'prison works', they can do little else.

up are reconvicted within three years, he says, "So we send them away at the cost of sending them to Eton, and it fails. Punishment means something to you and me. But with these kids, the threat of punishment means much less. They are punished all the time. They are punished by the very situation they are in; their parents often beat hell out of them. And the biggest predictor of trime is harsh, erratic parenting."

So, over five years, between books and other films (a recent production As it was, it changed public policy.

Now he hopes the timing is right a second time. His three-part series In

Now he hopes the timing is right a second time. His three-part series In

Now he hopes the timing is right a second time. His three-part series In

States and countries in Europe to find ways of dealing with young criminals other than by locking them up. The series focuses on successful work in three cities, Forth Worth, in Texas, Bos-

ton. Massachusetts, and Richmond, in California. In Boston, prosecutors have forged an alliance of schools, churches and former offenders in what is called Operation Nightlight to try to reduce juvenile killings. In Texas, there are schemes for supporting the families of juveniles on probation whose fathers are in prison. In Richmond, the local health centre and schools hire former gang members to work with children and battered young mothers.

Graef admits that, in television terms, "selling" good works is not as easy as depicting violence or crime. Arousing interest in the series was initially hard, so he made it first for the American market.

But the political climate in Britain Three in four young offenders locked has changed. The Lord Chief Justice.



Roger Graef: investigating alternatives to locking up young offenders

Lord Bingham of Cornhill, has talked of the need for society to look at the roots of crime, break the cycle of deprivation and introduce better community alternatives to imprisonment.

The Home Secretary, Jack Straw, has already seen Graef's series, and extracts from it will be used at the launch of his youth offending teams on March 8. The idea is that these teams will put up schemes which the Youth Justice Board can finance with an £85 million development fund.

The timing, Graef admits, is again fortuitous. Politicians, judges and others in the criminal justice system are aiready onside. But his programmes still need to create the right climate of support among the public. "My mes-sage is that you can't leave the problem

of what to do with young offenders to the justice system. It is an inadequate tool to deal with the problem: It is looking at punishing people for the past, not at dealing with the future."

He hopes to bring home to those who "pontificate in their pubs and clubs what the world for young offenders is actually like". More than that, he hopes the concrete examples of what can be done with such offenders will change attitudes. "I have had letters from people who have seen the programmes. One man said that he wondered What has this to do with me? Then, by the end, he knew what it had to do with him."

● In Search of Law and Order. Channel 4. Sunday, February 14 and 21.

How Campbell aims, to divide and rule

Snoddy

To criticise Downing Street press spokesmen for trying to get positive coverage for their bosses and then attacking the media when they don't is as pointless as condemning cats for chasing mice. Naturally the spokesmen want to persuade the press to follow the official agenda - rather than leaving reporters to indulge, as Alastair Campbell put it this week, their "obsession with trivia, travel expenses, com-

ment and soap opera".

It would, of course, be trivial to observe that Campbell's attack on the media for its lack of seriousness came just after his search for profound political coverage took Tony Blair to *This Morning* with Richard and Judy to discuss holidays and the future of Glenn Hoddle, Nothing new there. Margaret Thatcher's favourite media outlet was the

Jimmy Young Show on Radio 2. Yet Campbell's lecture this week at the Fabian Society did contain a number of serious points, some more serious than others. Blair's chief spin-doctor believes that the broadcast. media still allow their agenda to be set for them by newspapers that have become ever more cynical and less and less willing to cover the important political debates of the day.

Therefore, Campbell believes, it is time for broadcasters to create their own agenda free of the

poisonous influence of the press. He wants to see a divorce between the print and the broadcast media. "Live media is where it's at," Campbell believes, and no one will be surprised to learn that the live broadcasting he has in mind for politicians is the opportunity to appear live, unedited and largely unchallenged. What he has in mind is not robust political interviewing but an end-less succession of party political broadcasts.

A polite smile is the only sensible response to Campbell's broadcasting demands except on two issues. Sometimes the robustness of the questions, particularly on the Today pro-gramme, descends into rude, persistent interrupting that disrupts the flow of ideas, prevents sentences from being completed and adds nothing to human understanding. The second issue was the BBC's disgraceful decision to dump a modest segment of edited but uninterrupted coverage of the House of Com-mons, Yesterday in Parliament, on to long wave, where few will hear it.

Campbell's much more interesting point is

whether broadcasters could or should develop their own agenda rather than following that set by the newspapers. The idea is superficially attractive. Wouldn't it be nice to have contrasting views of the world rather than having to watch the different branches of the media play games of tag? It is also wholly impractical. It is no coincidence that despite all the immediacy of broadcasting and its ability to show events, such as natural disasters, it is so often newspapers that dig out the stories that change things for good or ill.

It is partly a matter of resources and time. The national press represents one of the large-

est bodies of journalists in the UK, and although daily deadlines seem challenging to those involved, they are positively luxurious to those working in often underfunded 24-hour electronic newsrooms. For many specialist bi media RPC journalists

cialist bi-media BBC journalists, life can be an exhausting round of rushing from microphone to camera, feeding one outlet after another with instant reaction. To think that such people can devote days to digging out a unique story of their own, or establishing their own agenda, is a tall order. The cumbersome nature of the

medium also means that, unless they are very lucky, broadcasters will not get the most important stories. Someone who wants to leak a confidential document is unlikely to rush before the cameras to be identified doing so.

The age of 24-hour broadcast news has belped to create a more unified news culture in the past few years. In every broadcast newsroom every national newspaper is mined routinely as a source of stories - and 24-hour TV news channels are watched on every newspaper newsdesk for breaking stories. The chain of news, reaction and counter-reaction is now seamless and unbreakable and that is why it is now often only a matter of days before the breaking of a "scandal" and the departure of the errant politician or football manager. The combined firepower of both press and broadcast media aimed at one subject can be awesome — which is probably why Campbell is trying to drive a wedge between the two. He would have more chance of success standing as a Labour candidate in Huntingdon.

But at least when his spinning days are over Alastair Campbell sounds as if he may be able to make a decent living as a newspa-per columnist and TV political commentator.

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trammelled for half a century.

cision of the competent authority ...

which entitles the developer to pro-ceed with the project the defini-

tion of a "development consent" in

ing that the source of the develop-

er could not proceed unless the planning authority had deter-

mined the appropriate conditions. So although the determination did

not decide whether the developer

might proceed but only the man-ner in which he might proceed, it was nevertheless a necessary condi-

tion for his being entitled to pro-

That was sufficient to bring it within the European concept of a

development consent. The purpose of the Directive was to ensure that

planning decisions which might af-fect the environment were made on

the basis of full information, it had

a wide scope and a broad purpose.

A decision as to the conditions under which a quarry could be op-

erated could have a very important effect on the environment. It could

protect it by imposing limits on noise, vibration and dust, requir-

ing the preservation of important natural habitats or the reinstate-

ment of damage to the landscape and in many other ways.

The Directive did not apply to de-

ceed at all.

Setting conditions is development consent Power to hear academic

impbella de and ne Regina v North Yorkshire of the council's decision to set conditions for the continued working of Brown and Another Before Lord Nicholls of Birkenhead. Lord Goff of Chieveley, Lord Jauncey of Tullichettle, Lord Lloyd of Berwick and Lord Hoffmann

[Speeches February 11] The setting of conditions, under section 22 of and Schedule 2 to the Planning and Compensation Act 1991, by a mineral planning authority upon the continued operation of a quarry, worked under a 1947 deemed planning permission, was a development consent for the purposes of article 2.1 of Council Directive (85/337/EEC) (OJ 1985 L175/40), which required an environmental impact assessment to be made before consent was given for projects likely to have signifi-

cant effects on the environment. Since the Town and Country Planning (Assessment of Environ-mental Effects) Regulations (SI 1988 No 1199), which established the criteria for England and Wales for identifying those projects whose characteristics were such as to remitre an assessment applied to require an assessment, applied only to grants of planning permis-sion, it was for the secretary of state to establish like criteria for decisions under the 1991 Acr.

The House of Lords so held in dismissing an appeal by North Yorkshire County Council from the order of the Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Evans, Lord Justice Hobhouse and Lord Justice Pill) (The Times February 9, 1998; [1998] Env LR 385) allowing an appeal by Marilyn Brown and Lesley Cartwright from the dismissal by Mr Justice Hidden (1997) Erry LR 391) a quarry at Preston-under-Scar without having conducted an environmental impact assessment.

Mr Timothy Straker, QC and Mr Philip Koivin for the council; Mr Richard Gordon, QC and Mr William Birtles for the respond-COS.

LORD HOFFMANN said that Preston-under-Scar was a village in North Yorkshire, designated as a conservation area. Near the village was Wensley Quarry, from which limestone had been extracted for many years.

Planning permission was grant-ed in 1947. That old permission was not subject to any time limit or conditions. It allowed quarrying not merely in the existing quarry but over some 322 hectares of the surrounding countryside,

Old mining permissions such as that for Wensley Quarry existed in many parts of the country. In a time of greater environmental con-sciousness, of which the Directive was one manifestation, they gave rise to two kinds of problem. First, there was no register from

which their existence could be discovered. A register of planning ap-plications was first introduced in 1947 but did not record earlier permissions which were deemed to sumption of mining or quarrying sometimes came as an unpleasant

surprise to people who had bought property in the area many years after the permission had been grant-Second, the old permissions Wensley Quarry, indefinite in duration and subject to no conditions for the protection of the local environment, such as limits on hours of working, noise, vibrations, dust emissions and so on.

Section 22 of and Schedule 2 to the 1991 Act had addressed both

It required the owners of land with the benefit of old mining per-missions to apply to the local mineral planning authority for their registration within six months of Sentember 25, 1991.

If they did not do so, the permis sion ceased to have effect. If they applied in time and the mineral planning authority was satisfied that the permission existed, it was obliged to grant the application. By that means, a register of all extant permissions was created. Once the application for registra-

tion had been granted, the owner of the land became entitled to ap-ply to the mineral planning author-ity to determine the conditions to which the permission was to be subject.
If no application was made within the stipulated period, the permis-

thority was given a very wide dis-cretion to impose conditions for the protection of the environment. The imposition of conditions upon the exercise of a planning permission usually took place concom-

itantly with the grant of the permis-

Section 22 was, so far as his Lordship was aware, unique in United Kingdom planning law in conferring a general duty upon planning authorities to consider whether to impose conditions upon were frequently, as in the case of a class of planning permission

which might have subsisted uncisions which involved merely the detailed regulation of activities for Could it be said that the decision Which the principal consent, raisimposing the conditions was a "deing the substantial environmental

issues, had already been given. But the procedure created by the 1901 Act was not merely a detailed regulation of a project in respect of hich the substantial environmental issues had already been consid-

The imposition of conditions was not a decision that the develop-er should be entitled to proceed. Its purpose was to give the min-eral planning authority a power to assess the likely environmental ef-fects of old mining permissions which had been granted without, to modern ways of thinking, any se-tious consideration of the environ-Mr Straker was quite right in sayer's right to proceed with the project was and remained the planning permission of 1947, even after conditions had been imposed. rious consideration of the environment at all. On the other hand, the develop-

it was true that the power to deal with those effects was limited to the imposition of conditions rather than complete prohibition. But the procedure was nevertheless a new and freestanding examination of the issues and could therefore require the information provided by an environmental impact assess-ment, it was therefore a "development consent within the meaning of the Directive.

That did not mean that the council was necessarily obliged to undertake an assessment. That depended upon whether it took the view that the characteristics of the decision required one.

It was for the secretary of state to establish the criteria for making that decision, as he had done for planning permissions in the 1988 Regulations, and for the council to apply those criteria.

Lord Nicholls, Lord Goff, Lord Jauncey and Lord Lloyd agreed. Solicitors: Rees & Freres for Mr Richard Daly, Northallerton; Richard Buston, Cambridge.

appeals not exercised

stopped because the Home Office had informed them that he had

Mr Salem had applied for leave

to move for judicial review of the

secretary of state's decision to noti-fy the Department of Social Securi-

been recorded as determined. Mr

Justice Tucker had refused leave. On Mr Salem's renewed applica-

tion, the Court of Appeal had decid-

ed to hear the substantive applica-

tion and, by a majority, dismissed it. On June 29, 1908 the House of

Lords had allowed a petition by

Mr Salem for leave to appeal. Subsequently, following an ar

peal to a special adjudicator, Mr Salem had been granted refugee

status. When the appeal had been called on in the House of Lords, on

January 18, 1999, he had accented

that his claims to income support

that his claim to asylum had

been refused asylum.

Regina v Secretary of State that his income support had been for the Home Department. Ex parte Salem

Before Lord Slynn of Hadley, Lord Mackay of Clashfern, Lord Jauneey of Tullichenie, Lord Stevn and Lord Clyde

Speeches February II The House of Lords had a discretion to hear an appeal where there was an issue involving a public authority as to a question of public law even if by the time the appeal reached the House there was no longer a lis to be decided that would directly affect the rights and obligations of the parties inter se, but the discretion had to be exercised with caution and academic appeals should not be heard unless there was a good reason in the pub-

The House of Lords dismissed an appeal by Fathi Saleh Salem from the Court of Appeal (Lord Jus-tice Brooke and Sir John Balcombe, Lord Justice Hobhouse dissenting) (The Times March 18, 1998: [1999] 2 WLR I), who had dismissed his application for judicial review of a decision of the Home Secretary.

lic interest for doing so.

Mr Nicholas Blake, QC and Miss Stephanie Harrison for Mr Salem; Mr David Pannick, OC and Mr Neil Garnham for the secretary of stare.

LORD SLYNN said that Mr Salem was a Libyan national who had arrived in the United King-dom on April 17, 1997 and claimed asylum. He had been granted temporary admission and awarded income support and related social se-

On May 7 the Home Office had recorded on an internal file. winthout telling Mr Salem, that asvium has been refused ... and the claim is hereby recorded as having been determi

On November's Mr Salem had

been told by the Benefits Agency

and housing benefit would be satis-fied and that there was no live issue relating to his position. Mr Blake, however, had contended that the appeal should continue since there was still a general issue of public importance as to when it could be said that an asy-lum claim was "determined" by

meaning of regulation 70(3A)(b) of the Income Support (General) Reg-ulations 1987 (SI 1987 No 1967), as inserted by regulation 2 of the Income Support (General) Amendment No 3 Regulations 1993 (SI 1993 No 1079), and amended by regulation 8(3)(d) of the Social Security (Persons From Abroad) Miscellane ous Amendments Regulations 1996

His Lordship accepted, as Mr Blake and Mr Pannick agreed, that in a cause where there was an issue involving a public authority as to a question of public law the House of Lords had a discretion to hear an appeal even if by the time

No offence to show indecent

(SI 1996 No 30)) so that an appli-

cant ceased to be an asylum-seek-

there was no longer a lis to be decid-ed that would directly affect the rights and obligations of the par-

The decisions in Sun Life Assurance Company of Canada v Jerris (1944 AC 111) and Ainsbury v Millington (Note) [[1987]] WLR 379₁. and the reference to the latter in rule 42 of Practice Directions Ap-plicable to Civil Appeals (January 1996) of the House of Lords, had to be read accordingly as limited to

rights between the parties. The discretion to hear disputes even in the area of public law, had, however, to be exercised with caution and appeals that were academic between the parties should not be heard unless there was a good reason in the public interest for doing so, as, for example, but only by way of example, when a discrete point of statutory construction arose that did not involve detailed consideration of facts and where a large number of similar cases existed or were anticipated so that the issue would most likely need to be re-

solved in the near future. The present was not such a cross Although a question of statutory construction arose, the facts were by no means straightforward and in other cases the problem of when a determination was made might depend on the precise factual con

Mr Pannick had told the House that only in a few cases had the

Moreover, pursuant to a White Paper published in July 1998 Fairer, Faster and Firmer - A Modern Approach to Immigration and Asy procedures to be followed would be

Lord Mackay, Lord Jauncey. Lord Steyn and Lord Clyde agreed. Solicitors: Tyndallwoods, Bir-

Directive on holiday time directly enforceable

Gibson v East Riding of Yorkshire District Council Before Mr Justice Morison, Mr P.

Dawson and Mrs R. Vickers Judgment January 29 A swimming instructor employed

by a local authority who was paid an hourly rate and was not paid during school holidays, was entitied to four weeks pald annual leave under the Working Time Di-rective (93/104/EC) (OJ 1993 L307/IS) which was directly enforceable by her.

The Employment Appeal Tribu-nal so held when allowing an ap-peal by Mrs Lorraine Gibson from a decision of a Hull industrial tribunal in January 1998, that she could not rely on the provisions of the directive to claim holday entitlement and that her claim under secdon 13 of the Employment Rights Act 1996, that her employers, the East Riding of Yorkshire District Council, had made unlawful deductions from her wages by not paying her for annual leave, failed.

The applicant had appealed on the ground that the industrial tribunal had erred in law in failing to apply article 7 of the directive which

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made to a set was well a

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provided that every worker was en-titled to paid leave of at least four weeks and which was directly enforceable by the applicant against the council as an emanation of the

Article 7 of the directive pro-

"I Member states shall take the measures necessary to ensure that every worker is entitled to annual leave of at least four weeks in ac-cordance with the conditions for enement to, and granting of, such leave laid down by national legislation and/or practice."

Miss Jennifer Eady for Mrs Gibson; Mr Nigel Wray for the coun-

MR JUSTICE MORISON said that the Working Time Directive was adopted by the Council of Ministers of the European Communities on November 23, 1991. It was not until October 1, 1998 that the Working Time Regulations (SI 1998 No 1833) came into force.

The industrial tribunal had concluded that the applicant was not coulded to paid annual leave. Its reasoning was that the directive by the Court of Justice of the Euro

FREE BOOKS FOR SCHOOLS CAMPAIGN

pean Communities in a number of decisions but was a complex directive subject to extremely complex exceptions and derogations. As a health and safety measure the directive did not give any entitlement to holiday pay but merely to paid

holiday leave.
His Lordship said that a provision of the EC Treaty or of a directive could only have direct effect in the laws of the member states if it was sufficiently precise and unconditional. A directive remained sufficlently precise even if its precise scope would require the European Court to interpret its provisions.

in the employment field the test of conditionality was satisfied if the provisions of the directive identified the beneficiaries of the right the person under a duty to give effect to the right, and the nature and extent, or content of the right.

A directive would be regarded as conditional if, before implementation, the member state was required to have consultation with the Commission. But the fact that the directive permitted precise derogations from its terms by member states did fift likely reguler the direcIt was the duty of the court in ap-plying national law to ensure fulfilment of the obligation arising from a directive to achieve the result envisaged by the directive, since a directive was binding on all the authorities of the member states, including, for matters within their ju-risdiction, the courts; see Marleasing SA v La Commercial Internacional de Allmentacion SA (Case C-106/89) ([1990] ECR 1413).

Although directives had direct effect, they did so only in relation to employees of an emanation of the state. That was because the directive itself was a provision directed to national governments and the state, or a state related employer, could not take advantage of its own failure to introduce legislation into domestic law which fully gave effect to the provisions of the direc-

There was much to be said for the conclusion reached by the Industrial tribunal. But on balance the appeal tribunal accepted the submission that article 7 had direct effect. They would look first at the totality of the directive to set the conicit and then consider the par-

THE TIMES

The directive was concerned with the further harmonisation of the Community, ensuring that those conditions should not be subordinated to purely economic considerations, and granting mini-mum annual periods of rest in or-der to ensure the safety and health

Although derogations were permitted the workers' rights were proected by the making of alternative

In the appeal tribunal's view the structure of the directive was consistent with its having direct effect. It was designed to require member upon workers in a way which could be said to be unconditional.

Article 7 was clear and precise and admitted of no ambiguity or conditionality. Although it was argued that the applicant expressly contracted on the basis that she would receive no paid annual leave, her contractual rights were varied by the directive in the sense that had the directive been intolemented timeously she would have been entitled to paid annual leave when she presented her complaint

As an emanation of the state the council could not rely on the lack of domestic legislation to defeat her claim. She was entitled to four

itors: Thompsons: Jane Birkinshaw, Beverley.

● Law Reports are also published in the Internet edition. contemporaneously with the nublished newspaper, on http://www.the-times.co.uk (free registration). Back issues may be reached from the front page of the day.

film of child only to oneself Regina v T

Before Lord Justice Waller, Mr Justice Kay and Judge Hyam [Judgment February 4] An offence under section I(I)(c) of

the Protection of Children Act 1978 was not complete if a defendant in possession of an indecent photograph of a child had shown it only The Court of Appeal, Criminal

Division, so held in allowing an appeal by T against his conviction on March 2, 1998, at Chichester Crown Court on a plea of guilty, af-ter a ruling by Judge Thorpe, to possession of an Indecent photograph of a child contrary to section (I)Ic) of the 1978 Act. Section 1 of the 1978 Act pro-

vides: "(i) It is an offence for a per-son - (a) to take, or permit to be takgraph ... of a child; or (b) to distribute or show such indecent photosession such indecent photographs ... with a view to their being distributed or shown by himself or oth-

Mr John M. Burton, assigned by the Registrar of Criminal Appeals, for the appellant; Mr Michael Warren, who did not ap-

pear below, for the Crown. LORD JUSTICE WALLER, giving the judgment of the court, said that the relevant count in the indictment was in the following terms possessing an indecent photograph contrary to section (t)(c) of the Protection of Children Act 1978" and the particulars of the offence alleged that he had "in his possession an indecent cine film of a child with a view to showing such film".

mitted in relation to that count were that he had in his possession only shown it to himself. The prosecution were not seeking to demonstrate that he showed

The facts that the appellant ad-

it to anyone else but maintained that it was sufficient that he showed it to himself for him to be The appellant's contention be-

low and on appeal was that "show" it was shown to a third party. It was pointed out that by section 160 of the Criminal Justice Act 1988 there had in fact now been created a summary offence of possession of an indecent photograph of a child. Their Lordships agreed that the annellant's construction of the sec-

tion was right for the following rea-I When one read section I(I)(b), "to distribute or show such indecent

photographs" had to mean show ing to somebody not oneself. That construction was further supported by R v Fellows and Arnold (1997) 1 Cr App R 244) where it was held that "showing" data stored on a computer meant to other persons and not to the person in pussession himself.

2 It would be guite impossible to contend that "showing" in section i(i)(c) had a different meaning from the meaning in section i(l)(b) 3 it would not have been necessary to pass section 160 of the 1488 Act. making simple possession an offence, if it was already an offence under section I(I)(c) of the 1978 Act.

Accordingly, it seemed to their Lordships clear that the appellant pleaded guilty on a wrong construction of the law and his conviction on that count had to be quashed. Solicitors: Crown Prosecution

Correction

In R v Ministry of Defence, Exparte Walker (The Times February II) the headline was misleading in that all three judges agreed that the tank shot was a crime of violence but the majority held Sgr Walker's claim was rejected by the military activity exclusion.

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

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LEGAL NOTICES

THE INSCRIPENCY ACT 1986

BURLINGTONS (CLERKENWELL) MURLINGTONS (ROMAN ROAD)

BURLINGTORS (PADDINGTOR)
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BURLINGTORS HADCUITEES MOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN PRESE MOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN PRESE

Ant to Section 98(1) of the insolvency Act 1986, that Meetings of Castificus of the above named. Companies will be held at Smith & Williamson, No 1 Ricing House Street, Landon WIA 3.85 on 18th day of February 1999 at 200 pm. 230 pm, 300 pm, 330 pm and 400 pm respectively, for the pur-poses mentioned in Sections 99 to 101 of the Insolvency Act 1986. poses mentioned in Sections 99 to 101 of the Emolvency Act 1986. MYTICE is also hereby given pur-suant to Section 98(2)(8) of the Ingolysmey Act 1986 that a list of

ing are to be held. Dated 8th February 1999 By Chder of the Board C COLEMAN, Director NOTICE OF MEETING IN

MOTICE OF MENTING IN ABMINISTRATION PROCEEDINGS In the matter of AIDAN PIERS, and in the matter of the Inspirement Act 1986. Holdice is hearby given that a meeting of the members and creditoes in the above matter, is to be held at the offices of EDO Stoy Bayward CEI, Third Hoor, Peter House, St Peter's Square, Manchester, M1 SAR, on the 2nd March 1999, at 1100 am to consider my broncests under a 2011 of the inproposals under a 23(1) of the In-solvency Act 1986, and to consider extablishing a committee of cresiestablishing a countries of credi-tors. A proxy form should be em-pleted and returned to use by the date of the meeting, if you cannot attend the meeting and wish to be represented. In order to be entitled to work at the meeting you prest give to me, no later than 12.00 nous on the business day presed-ing the meeting, deaths in withing of your claim. A copy of my propo-stal may be obtained from the above addition. Desert this 10th day of February 1999. D. Sweden, FCA, Americk 1990.

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT AND SERVICES LIMITED - IN PROMINETON

IN THE MATTER OF THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986 HEREBY CONTRIN THAT I was ap-MOTRCE IS HEREBY GIVEN that MUTSCE IN THEREDY GAVEN USES the Creditors of the above passed Company which is being voluntar-ly wound up, are required on or before the 31st day of June 1999, to send in their full forenames and

to send in their rull forenames and summuses, their addresses and de-scriptions, rull purticulars of their delvis or claims and the names and addresses for their Solicitors (if any), to the undersigned. RICEL GORDON MALLETT, NEW-LAND MALLETT GARRIER WOOD-LAND MALLETT GARRER WOOD-BURY, CROWN HOUSE, 37 - 41 PRINCE STREET, BRISTOL BS1 4PS the Liquidator of the said Compa-ny, and, it so required by sotice in writing from the said Liquidator, are, personally or by their Solid-tors, to come in and prove their debts or circus at such time and alternated the medical forces.

piace as shall be specified in such notice, or in default thereof they will be excluded from the benefit of any distribution made before such debts are proved. Dated this 4th day of February Rigel G Mallett

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FCA a Licensed Insolvency Practitioner of Leonard Curtis, One
Greet Combonismal Flace, London
WIH SLE, was appointed Liquidator of the above Companies by the
members and creditors on 5th Febmary 1999. All debts and cheles RECUEST LIMITED

reary 1999. All debts and claims gid be sent to ma at the above address, All creditors who have not abready done so are british to prove their claims in writing to se of invitation to prove tights will be **PUBLIC NOTICES**

INCOMENTURS CONVENED POSSUMAT TO SECTION 98(1) OF THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986 S C F EQUITY SERVICES LIMITED NOTICE IS HELESY CAVEN pursu-mat to Section 98(1) of the Insol-vency Act 1986 that a meeting of conditions of the above rayand com-

conditions of the above reproduced con-pany will be held at FMGH, Crown House, 37/41 Prime Street, Rristol BS1 425 on the second day of March 1999 at eleven orthock in the Company for the Interpretathe forences for the purposes mentioned in Section 100 and 101

of the said Act.
A that of the names and addresses of the company's creditors will be available for inspection at the offices of Newband Mallett Gamer Woodbury, Crown House, 37 - 41 Prince Street, Inistral B51 4Pf during normal working hours on the two business days farmediately prior to the date of the meeting. For the purposes of voting, a form of proxy intended to be used at the meeting must be lodged at the registered office of the company at Newland Mallett Gamer Woodburry, Crown House, 37 - 41 Prince Street, Eristol E51 4PS not letter

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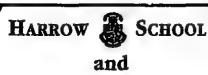
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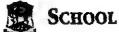
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EDUCATION

Do five terms beat three? Lessons in the

Changing the school year would improve study but disrupt families. Jon Ashworth investigates

rithin the next few days, East Sussex County Council will step up consultations on whether to introduce a five-term year into its schools. Teachers, par ents and governors are being lobbied on what is fast becoming a hot topic for debate in staffrooms.

The proposals envisage a fourweek summer break, with eightweek terms separated by 14-day holidays. Reaction so far is said to be mixed, with no clear consensus one way or the other. The East Sussex Education Committee will announce its decision in June.

Making a Break, a new report from the Funding Agency for Schools, has added to the debate by suggesting that children in the fiveterm system learn more effectively, are less disruptive and are less inclined to tiredness.

In America, about 3,000 schools, with two million students, already work to an alternative calendar. Supporters of the system, known as year-round education, argue that spreading learning more evenly throughout the year helps to avoid "learning loss" during the long sum-

The British report found that students, teachers and parents were attracted by the prospect of regular breaks, with the opportunity to take holidays outside the peak times.

Drawbacks include having children in different school systems, increased problems with finding childcare and difficulties in taking time off work to coincide with school holidays. Children did not like the idea of being off at a different time from their friends, and teachers said they would find it difficult to meet colleagues who worked in traditional systems.



Holiday chaos: a five-term year would mean more breaks at off-peak times, but could cause problems if it was not adopted by every school

The UK's 15 city technology colleges already work to a five-term year. Bradford, Bristol and Thurrock are consulting parents and teachers, as are the London boroughs of Newham and Croydon.

Opinion among teachers is mixed. Peter Barton, Headmaster of the Causeway School, a secondary in Eastbourne, East Sussex, says: "The three-term year is wasteful. The autumn term is generally agreed to be too long; often standards of learning drop. And the long summer break seems to allow many students to unlearn much of the previous year's work."

Duncan Baxter, Headmaster of Kingston Grammar School in southwest London, sees benefits in dividing the year into more neatly packaged units. Teachers and

pupils will be less tired at the end of term," he says. "Regular assessments will check progress throughout the year and syllabuses can be divided into manageable chunks. Pupils will not forget all that they have learnt in the previous term by the time they begin the next one."

Mr Baxter also sees disadvantages. "There would be an increase in the number of parents taking their children out of school early at the end of term - or returning late at the beginning of term - for family holidays," he says.

Parents, too, have mixed views of the system. Terry Forrest, a biochemist from Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire, has two sons of school age. He believes that working mothers in particular will run into difficulties because their established

working patterns will be disrupted. universal, you could have a son do-But his wife Susan, a housewife, is ing five terms and a daughter doin favour of five terms. "Children. Another parent, Dominic Riley, especially younger ones, get very tired as the term progresses, and working parents wouldn't have the

40, an airline pilot thinks that four terms would work well, but ques-tions the merit of five. "I don't see what five terms would do," he says. "Children spend a week settling down after the holidays and a week getting excited about breaking up. and this is disruptive." Teaching unions are strongly opposed, pointing out that reducing the summer holiday, a big attraction of teaching, would deter potential recruits to the

If the new system does go ahead, state schools would follow their local authorities while independent schools would make their own de-

great outdoors

he visionaries who framed the 1944 Education Act had no doubt about the value of outdoor education. The legislation proclaimed: "A period of residence in a school camp... in the country would contribute substantially to the health and width of outlook of any child from a town school," For all of the emphasis on Preparation for Adult Life in the current curriculum review, however, it will be surprising if the subject rates more than a postscript in the final report.

Schools and local authorities

can no longer af-ford to provide the residential experience that became commonplace in the postwar era. If children are given such an opportunity at all, the financial burden falls on parents, many of whom can

afford it even less. Fashions have changed in education, of course, in aimost half a century. But plenty of good judges still believe that the residential experience - preferably linked to outdoor

pursuits - carries benefits that should not be lightly abandoned. Teachers and employers alike recognise the growth in per-sonal responsibility and resourcefulness that even a short course can foster.

For inner-city children in particular, many of whom have never spent time in the country or been away from home alone, the change is often striking. But with the number of outdoor centres run by local authorities dropping from more than 250 to about 100 in the past three years, their chances of being offered a place are shrinking fast. Some of the supporters of outdoor educa-tion met in Bristol this week at an RSA-sponsored conference to consider how the decline could be arrested. Sir Michael Hobbs, the director of the Outward Bound Trust, admitted that youthful apathy, parental con-cerns over safety and schools' fear of litigation in the event of mishaps all added to the financial problems.

Yet the demand for adventure is not dead. Partly because of the lack of local authority centres. Outward Bound's numbers are up by a third this year. Expedition organisers such as World

Challenge also find interest as strong as ever. But there must be a suspicion that those who would benefit most are the least likely to be given the opportunity. Schemes such as

Birmingham's. which guarantees residential course for every primary school child, or North Lanarkshire's. which gives 1.000

children a taste of

Outward Bound. show what can be done. Almost 50 firms have contributed £10,000 to meet half the costs of the North Lanarkshire scheme, believing that they will reap rewards later in the form of

more rounded employees.

A report published last year by the Secondary Heads Association indicated that there is plenty going on at school level as well. A little official encouragement would help. The curriculum is crowded enough without adding to the pressure on classroom time, but the entitlement to even a short residential course would help to preserve a valuable and endangered part of the education service.



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problem of great chunks of child-

care for six weeks at a time." she claims. "Most of my friends who

work dread the summer holidays.

You have the two-week family holi-

day in France, and what do you do

shire. 'The current arrangements

fit very comfortably with the uni-

versity transition," says Mr Ba-

call. "Also, if the change was not

eff Bacall, a 46-year-old com-

pany director, and his wife

Shelley, have two boys at

school in Barnet, Hertford-

with the rest of the time?"

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GABBITAS

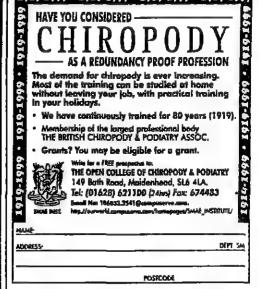
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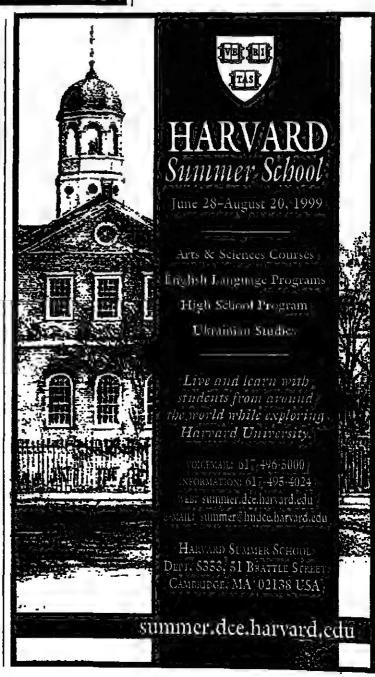


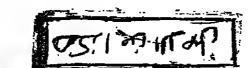
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Christopher Irvine on a rugby league coach preaching good practice

Old habits die hard for Hanley

summed up the man: "I never blame failure, but I am absolutely merciless towards lack of preparation and lack of effort." You can imagine any slackers wringing their hands like schoolboys caught smoking and awaiting punishment outside the headmaster's office, Ellery Hanley will tolerate nothing less from his St Helens players than the consummate professionalism. dedication and wholehearted endeavour that characterised a nonpareil playing career.

There are two computers and a laptop in his office, which overlooks the rooftops of St Helens, where public expectations of him are enormous at the start of a new sea-son. Although a latecomer to new technology, Hanley has mastered it, like everything else, by unstituing practice. "Missed tackles, tackles. They are all counted and logged.

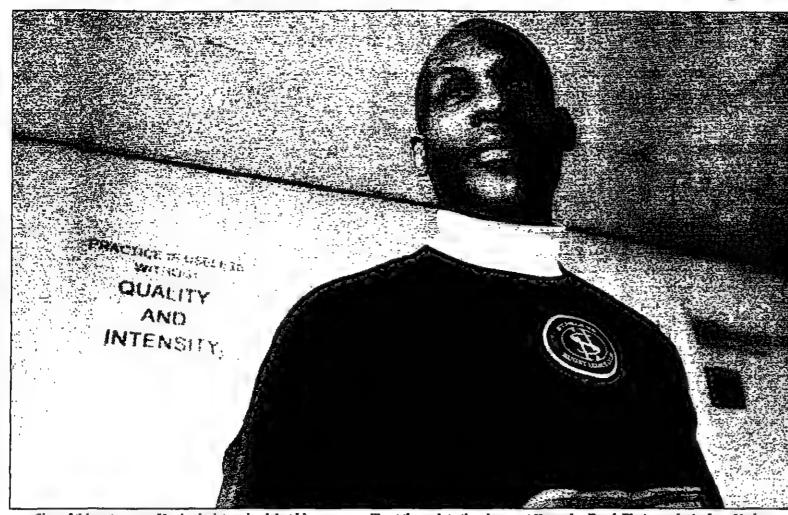
"There's no hiding place any more. I see everything." What three-year exile in Australia, to give up a good life in Sydney for the slightly ramshackle Knowsley Road is the competitive instinct that burns as brightly as ever within him.

The best deals in rugby league are usually done on the M62. Hanley was home for a few weeks on business. Sitting in a service station on the motorway, he listened to the offer put to him by St Helens and thought hard about an opportunity that was too good to miss. At 37, his playing days were over; this was the next best thing, or so he imagined.

"I get the same satisfaction coaching as I did playing," he said. "Once you leave the football field because your desire has gone, all that returns with coaching. It's something I look forward to every single day. When I go on to the paddock and we're setting up plays and players are executing them well, that's pure job satisfac-

On his arrival last November, he issued the players with notebooks. That way they cannot be excused forgetting his instructions. Punctuality was addressed; Hanley is a stickler for timekeeping. Everyone must be willing to make sacrilices. "I'm fortunate to be in charge of a very good side with

30p



Sign of things to come: Hanley is determined that his message will get through to the players at Knowsley Road. Photograph: Andrew Varley

will only be realised if they listen and obey all commands," he said.

Utterly inscrutable, yet engagingly perceptive and persuasive while never giving too much away — that is Hanley. He spoke recently to a Prince's Trust meeting about motivation and self-confidence and the youngsters were bowled over. No wonder players put their bodies on the line for

Rugby league's gain was preaching's loss. He answers questions with sermons. For someone who let his talent do the talking for much of his career, he is a natural interviewee. Why was he willing to stake his reputation? "I'm not. You talk about reputation. Character is what counts for me. That's what a person is about. Reputation is merely what others think of you.

What emotions do you undergo on match day? "None. My coaching stops after the last training session. If a player is going to be a champion, always prepare for the unexpected. That's what I hope they've logged." Dead-bat without blather. Hanley could teach certain people a trick or

Another of his home-made signs talks of practice being useless without quality and

intensity. He could have

added passion. "I think we're

on this planet for a short per-

iod of time," he said, "I'd hate

to think I'd left and hadn't

Judgment begins on Sun-

day, away to Hunslet Hawks

in the fourth round of the Silk

Cut Challenge Cup, which St

Helens won in 1996 and 1997

given my maximum."

under Shaun McRae. "People say you're under tremendous pressure because Shaun McRae did this and that, but the past doesn't matter," Hanley said. "All that does is the next game. Pressure is something you bring on yourself. I don't feel it.

"It's down not only to the personnel but their artitude.

will to win and mental tough-

ness. My goal, week by week.

is to be able to look up at the

scoreboard and see we've out-

scored the opposition. Another is to finish with the best defen-

Sullivan. Kevin Iro, Sean

Long. Paul Sculthorpe and

Chris Joynt, Hanley has out-

standing individual talent. He talks, though, not in personalities, but purely about team-work. He took a pre-season defeat by Warrington Wolves badly. If you go to any ground don't think the opposition will lie down. Wear your heart outside your sleeve every time. We were out-enthused

'Missed tackles. They are all counted and logged. There's no hiding place any more?

> Warrington, which was disappointing," he said. "I was fortunate to be with some fantastic individuals, who complemented my play, particularly at Wigan and

Leeds, where players gelied at particular times. They were great teams." The traditional St Helens

ciated as the destroyer of St Helens in a Wigan shirt in the Eighties, will have made it in supporters' eyes when he can turn over his old employers on a regular basis.
On leaving, I reminded him of his most significant coach-

fickle and the chub has suf-

fered its share of traumas off

the field in the past year, but

the place is buzzing again.

Hanley, more commonly asso-

ing achievement so far -Great Britain's 8-4 defeat of Australia at Wembley in 1994, memorable for its incredible defiance with 12 players after the early dismissal of Shaun Edwards. He stared back as if to say: "What on earth has ancient history to do with now?" At South Leeds Stadium on

Sunday, if Hanley cannot put out 13 players blessed with his skills, he can field 13 prepared to give the level of commitment for which he was famous. He does not expect to rugby league public can be be let down.

SNOOKER

Williams finally meets his match

BY PHIL YATES

THE three-month, 16-match unbeaten run enjoyed by Mark Williams — and his reign as Benson and Hedges Masters champion — came to an unexpected end yesterday. Williams lost 6-4 in the quar-ter-finals to Alan McManus. an opponent who was often on the receiving end during Williams' all-conquering spell, in which he won the Irish Open, helped Wales to lift the Nations Cup and cap-

tured the Welsh Open title. "That was a big hurdle after what Mark has done to me lately," McManus, who had lost to Williams on three occasions this season, said. He now faces either Ronnie O'Sul-

livan or Ken Doherty.
Williams, who defeated Mc-Manus 51 at the German Masters, 9-4 in the final of the Irish Open and inflicted only the second whitewash in the Scot's nine years as a professional on the way to prevail-ing at the Welsh Open, made a sluggish start, whereas Mc-Manus was immediately into the groove with a break of 83 in the first frame,

He established a 5-1 lead, but Williams, who rallied from 9-6 adrift to edge out Stephen Hendry 10-9 on a respotted black in a memorable climax to the Masters last year, fought tigerishly. Runs of 52 and 63 enabled him to recover to 3-5 before McManus squandered an opportunity to wrap up proceedings in the ninth frame when he missed a red from short range.

Williams then embarked on an exceptional 58 clearance, which included a fearless pink using the rest, to steal the frame on the black. The tenth frame, a tense business lasting 38 minutes, was determined when McManus rolled the pink to a balk pocket from distance and, equally impor-tantly, judged position on the black to perfection. "I am very relieved. I thought it had slipped away," he admitted. Williams had no com-

plaints. "I've had a great time of it lately and I always knew the run would come to an end. I wasn't going to lie down like a baby, but, overall, Alan deserved it," he said.

ATHLETICS

Smith opts to give grand prixe a miss

BY DAVID POWELL ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

STEVE SMITH, the Great Britain men's athletics team captain at the European championships last year, found himself singing from the same hymn sheet as Michael Johnson yesterday, though it sounded more like Abba than Songs of Praise. Money, Money. Money was the theme.

Smith launched an attack

on the new paymasters of British athletics, Fast Track. Instead of competing in the BUPA indoor grand prix at Birmingham on Sunday, he will be high-jumping in Germany. The financial offer to him for Birmingham was too little, too late, he said. "I felt I was more wanted in Germany than I was in Britain, which is

sad," Smith said. Vicente Modahl, Smith's manager, said that he had tried to strike a deal in Decem-ber, but Ian Stewart, the promoter, had not responded. When he did, Modahl said, the offer was less than the one from Germany, to which they had already committed. Jon Ridgeon, for Fast Track,

said: "We are going the same way as other sports, where the emphasis is on prize-money rather than appearance fees. No other British athlete wants to be anywhere else except at our meeting on Sunday." While Smith against Javier

Sotomayor, the world recordholder, would have been an interesting sideshow. Johnson's stance is more serious for Fast Frack After Iwan Thomas's all-conquering summer, there is one head-to-head above all others that would sell tickets this year: Thomas v Johnson. However, Brad Hunt, John-

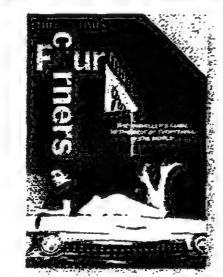
son's manager, said that the athlete would not compete in Britain until "obligations of the past have been addressed" By that, he meant the \$100,000-plus that the Olympic champion is owed from his appearance at Crystal Palace

The collapse of the British Athletic Federation 16 months ago left many athletes unpaid. Hunt argues that UK Athletics, the new governing body, should pay for the sins of its

THE TIMES

sive record."





BEATRAVEL NOTATOURIST.



Four Corners. The four part travel guide to the places tourists den't go to Collect part two, free in The Times this Saturday.





CHANGING TIMES



By Robert Sheehan, bridge correspondent

Begin Bridge with The Times: Lesson 43 - Rebids on minimum hands

I touched on the subject of opener's rebids in Lesson 34 - Opening One of a Suit, when I stressed the importance of planning your rebid before opening the bidding. Over the next few weeks I am going to look at this subject in some detail.

If you have a minimum (12-14 HCP) balanced hand (remember: no void, no singleton and not more than one doubleton) you open One No-Trump without a planned which Whether was actually make a rebid or not dereends. rebid. Whether you actually make a rebid or not depends upon partner's first response (see Lesson 31).

When you open One of a Suit, you should have planned

your intended rebid but must still take into account your patner's first response. Partner assumes your One of a Suit opening shows your hand is unbalanced, but if your rebid is in no-trumps he will adjust to your (now) balanced hand in

It is vital to recognise that when the opening bid is One of a Suit the bidding dialogue works progressively:

Opening bid: One Heart (I have at least four hearts and enough HCP to open the bidding).

First response: One Spade (I have at least four spades and 6+HCP).
Rebid: Two Diamonds (My hand is unbalanced, at least five

hearts and four diamonds, I have less than 19 HCP or I would have jumped to Three Diamonds).

Second response: Four Hearts (My three-card heart suit fits well with your five, and I have 12 HCP so I feel we should be

This typical dialogue demonstrates how the opening One of a Suit and the first response of a simple change of suit does not quantify either the shape or HCP of either hand, but the rebid and second response set boundaries for both the shape

and value of the joint holdings.

Here are some straightforward examples. You open One Heart and partner responds One Spade: what do you rebid?

(B) ♠ K784 ? AJ765 (A) **4** 65 ♥ AQ7653 (C) ♣ A3 ♥ 87 0 AQ654

With Hand (A) you simply rebid your main suit. Two Hearts. With Hand (B) you have good support for partner which he will be pleased to hear about - rebid Two Spades. Both these two rebids are limit bids - they tell your pariner immediately that you have a minimum hand. With Hand (C) you rebid your second suit - Two Clubs. This is not a limit bid in the same way as the previous two examples. Here you could have up to about 18 HCP for such a bid. Two Clubs is not forcing. but partner should not pass unless he has a very poor hand.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

HOMRAI

a. Pistachio nut din b. Samurai code of honour c A hombill

NASSA a. A word puzzle b. An Egyptian donkey c. A basket shell

HAIKAL An interpreter

b. A chapel c. An African vulture NOMIC

a. Terse b. Routine c. Looking for a law ... Answers on page 50



By RAYMOND KEENE CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Seventy-five years ago

1999 is the seventy-fifth anniversary of the great tourna-ment at New York in 1924. Interestingly, this was also won by Emanuel Lasker, a quarter of a century after his triumph at London 1899, which I cov-

ered yesterday. Professor Nathan Divinsky, the chess statistician, has also compiled some figures for leading players playing with white against only elite opponents. From these, Lasker also emerges with immense credit, particularly given the fact that Mor-phy played far fewer games gainst top flight opposition than did Lasker.

The leading percentages with White are as follows: Mor-phy 88.5; Lasker 71.5; Kasparov 70.7; Karpov 67.3; Capablanca Kramnik 66.4: Anand 66.11: Charousek 66.07: Alekhine 65.7; Ivanchuk 64.8; Rubinstein 64.7; Fischer 64.1. Today's game is a win by Lasker from New York 1924

against a coming world cham-White: Alexander Alekhine

Black: Emanuel Lasker New York 1924

Queen's Gambit Declined NIG NBd7 3 N/3 4 Nc3 5 cxd5 පත්5 දරි B(4 12 Qc2 13 Nd1 14 Ne3

Bh5 B7 Rc8 Qb2 f5 Ng2 Rie1 h3 bac6 Qd6 Bc7 h5 Nh7 22 23 24 25 26 27 Res Resi Qcs

Roe8 Ros5 Sus5 e4 g6 Inxg4 gch3 Ros2 34 Bh5 35 Nh4 36 Qx4 Diagram of final position

Keene online

You can send me your queries puzzles, problems and games direct by e-mail. The address is keenechess@aol.com. The best contributions from Times readers will be published either here or in the Saturday Times Weekend column.

Times book

The Times Winning Moves 2 contains 240 chess puzzles from international grandmaster Raymond Keene's daily column in The Times, and is available now from bookshops or from B.T. Batsford Ltd (tel: 01797 369966 at £6.99 plus postage and packing).

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

Black to play. This position is from the game between Nemet played in Zurich last year. What was Black's winning continuation?

Solution on page 50





Spencer, who has already ridden a classic winner in Ireland, gets into the thick of the action on the all-weather at Lingfield yesterday

Spencer's star in ascendancy

e looks so impossibly young that he might equally have been drawn to the all-weather track at Lingfield yesterday by the chance to make sandcastles without an incoming tide. Instead, Jamie Spencer was working on his quiet evolution as a child prodigy in the man's world of race-riding.

He looks the part, all right, albeit he could also play Bugsy Malone. Though he is 18, there is a callow tuft on his chin and he could easily pass for three or four years younger. Last spring, however, he announced himself with a display of nerveless, innocent flair to win the Irish 1,000 Guineas on Taras-

His solourn in Britain this winter has embraced not only some dashing all-weather winners but also one over hurdles for Barney Curley — prompt-ing that severe judge to avow that here is a match for Frankie Dettori at a similar stage. Certainly there has beenroom at the top in Flat racing since Dettori's emergence, a vacuum thus far

consumed by the maturing of Kieren Fallon.

Spencer is fresh blood. The apprentice has had the right sorcerers in Liam Browne, who murtured Michael Kinane among many others; in Tommy Stack, the trainer of Tarascon, whose recent meningitis has given his protégé less welcome impetus in the business of growing up; and now Curley. Despite his endorsements, Curley is

sensitive to the perils menacing Spen-cer's progress. After all, Walter Swinburn's soubriquet became no less appropriate for the fact that a choirboy will be as prey to mischief and tempta-tion as he is cherubic. "You see a lot of young fellows that go by the wayside or get forgotten about." Spencer said. I'm determined. I'd like to be the best some day. Whether I get that far is another thing, but I'll put everything into it. Even if people say you've natural talent, you have to work hard if you want to go places. Barney's taught me a lot about racing and about people in it. It's a fairly cut-throat game."

It was no mere hunch that persuaded Stack to entrust Spencer with the neurotic Tarascon. The boy had grown up with Stack's own son and had inherited a horseman's instincts from his late father, George, who trained Winning Fair to win the 1963 Champion

Tommy gave me the big chance and put his head on the block, though you don't get to that stage without people like Liam Browne to get you going. I owe a great deal to him. As for Tommy, I've known the family all my life and he's a gentleman. If he thinks you could have done something different. he doesn't shout and scream, but explains it to you. Barney's the same."

pencer continued: Tarascon didn't really sink in at the time. I was more excited than nervous. Every opportunity I'll take by the horns if I can. You only get a certain amount in this game. I'm learning all the time from small mistakes. I think I've improved since coming here. I hope I'd be tidier and I'm learning more about race reading."

His win over timber was so defily executed that, with his physique on the puppyish side for a Flat jockey, there will be those expecting him to end up switching codes. But he is adamant. "I'd like to be a top Flat jockey if I can. I can do 8st 5lb comfortably and will do 8st 2lb, but don't want to be pushing it too hard through the winter and being wrecked halfway through summer. I've been hunting since I was ten and would love a good ride at Cheltenham. that would be a dream come true. My father won the Champion there so it would be important for my peace of mind. Maybe a ride in the bumper. I'm open to offers."

Rest assured, those offers will not be restricted to a bit of crack at Cheltenham - though for now, in his mentor's hour of need, he says he will return to Tipperary this summer. Either way, if Spencer has prompted some to think of Oliver, a more appropriate text remains Great Expectations.

BANGOR

2.00 Leaburn. 2.30 River Wye. 3.00 Potter Again. 3.30 Knight's Crest. 4.00 CARBURY CROSS (nap). 4.30 Kibreet. 5.00 Gulshan. Carl Evans: 4.30 Kibreet.

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3.30 BATES & HUNT BUDGET GAS HANDICAP

010 01 (10)	
1 334- FULL OF DATS 305 (G.S.) P Hobbs 13-11-10 R Wedger (S)	
2 62F4 PLIPPANCE 29 (B,G) N Gazelee 9-11-7 . D Learly	113
3 PS45 COOLE HALL 44 (G.S.) D Inchoton 8-11-8 A Magnet	082
4 13-5 CERIDWEN 16 (CD.S) 1 Greathead 9-11-6 L Sothern (7)	_R2
5 -131 KNEGHT'S CREST 55 (G.5) R Deckin 9-11-5 . L Wyer	114
5 -3FP LAR MAGNETIC 35 (S) H Daly 8-11-5 C Maude	110
3/34 SISTER ROSZA 17 (C.S.) No. 5 (1994) 11-11-4 R Famani	
5 U133 LAY IT OFF 42 IF G.S) J () New! 10-11-4 R Massey	
9 D6P2 MISTER TRICK 58 (F.G) L Lungo 9-11-3 R Supple	
10 -22F TRUE FORTUNE 37 (BF.G.5) V Darmail 9-13-1 B Foreign	
I ZILS MESTER BLAKE 34 (BF.C.F.G.S) R Live 9-11-0 , R Thornton	
12 1:3- DIAMOND FORT 367 (F G.S) J Not connective 14-10-13	111
15 119 Decired Loui Set ft 200 5 patromorais 14,10-10	
R McGrah	
13 P-D2 MAURACHAS 42 (G,S) M Sheppard 9-10-12 G Uping	
14 2/12 NO FIDOLING 22 (F,S) 6 MicCourt 8-10-8 E Husband	
15 0062 PMX GN 17 (V.F.G.S.) M Magnet 12-10-0 C McConnack (3)	111
16 ALASKAN HERR 17 (Y.G.S) & Cheese 8-10-0 Gary Lyons	109
4-1 Knoph & Cless 6-1 Misson Etalo, 8-1 Lay & Oil Miston Trich, 10-1 orbers.	

4.00 DENBIGH NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,948; 2m 4f) (18)

	1 413 CARBURY CROSS 18 (D,S) J J O Natl 5-11-10 R McGrath	Hit's
	2 1213 PEWINSULA BOY 108 (RF,D,G) P Breven 6-11-8 W Marston	-79
	3 -344 LDOK SHARPER 13 R Bucder 6-11-2 B Powell	91
	4 2642 LUCKY MASTER 32 J Docon 7-11-0 J Supple	P2
	5 -F23 DEMI CENTURY 29 Mrs 5 Smiln 7-10-13 5 Durack	100
	6 61PO TRUE MISSION 14 (S) H Daty B-10-12 J Tozzad	98
ř	7 CAPO PRANCING BLADE 25 N Twiston-Davier: 6-10-11 . C Maude	23
1	8 304P GO BRITANNIA 35 F Jordan 5-10-10 P Noven	101
é	9 2451 ERRIGAL 32 (B S) B Nicholson 4-10-10 A Maguire	85
[10 PESS ARTIC GROUND 43 (S) PR Webber 7-10-9 A Garrery	96
F	11 3453 RUKER JOKER 13 R Peacock 8 10-6 C Webb	
'	12 336F PLAHIVE'S FIRST 52 (G) A J Price 5-10-5 A Dobben	93
	13 6020 BOLLY NOMANTE 14 Apr S Smith 5-10-4 , No. J Crowney (5)	102
	14 3346 SUNO 18 Mrz S Lameman 6-10-3	
	15 -D44 THE RECOTATOR 116 M Heaton-Eills 5-10-0 1 Wyer	86 76 48 87 92
	16 CO14 HEAD GARDENER 48 (B.D.G.) R Les 5-10-0 Mr P Costedo (7)	46
	17 P433 BRIGHHALLOW 7 (B) has 8 Waring 6-10-0 E Byrne	97
	11 PACK APPROPRIATION 1 (D) (NOS S 1/B) IN Charles C. 10-10-1 E Shirth	01
	18 320P ADMIRAL S GUEST 35 W Clov 7-10-0 8 Wylma	100
	\$1 Carbon Cares \$41 Stat Ground 7.1 Surso Marter Finand R-1 others	

4.30 SILBERT COTTON MEMORIAL HUNTERS CHASE (£1.544: 2m 4l 110yd) (14)

1 F31- ANDERMATT 300 (CD,G,S) J Mackie 12-12-7	
Mr J R Conwall (7)	[9%]
1 P45- DESTIN D'ESTRUVAL 282 (D.G.S) Miss H Knight & 12-7	
Mr A Dampsey	53
# 11P- HACKETTS CROSS 489 (D.F.G.) G Briscoe 11-13-7	
Mr C Stretchen (5)	77
1 OSO- KUBREET 258 (F.G.S) P Holius 12-12-7 . Mr P Flynn (7) 5 450- KING OF SHADOWS 263 (CD.G) Mes C Carden 12-12-7	**
Wr S Prior (7)	67
4 PPY MR GOLIGHTLY 701 (S) Mrs J Reed 12-12-7 . Mrs J Reed (5)	-
7 P-PS WALLS COURT 5 (B D.G) J O'Shea 12-13-7 Mr J R Barrow (7)	-
8 231- CASIN HEL 324 (D.S.) Mrs A Price 13-12-0 Mr P Costello (7)	88
9 104- DALAMETRE 289 (G.S) M Franc 12-12-0 Nr M Marmoud (7)	80
10 -FOO DESERT CALM 196 D McCam 10-12-0 Mr D Dickenson (7)	73
11 4P2/ EAU SO SLOE 648 F Marthews 8-12-0 Miss 5 Tathot (7)	=
12 114- FINCH'S GEM 272 (C,G,S) Mis J Owen 11-12-0 Mr R Fornstal	78
13 3P-P SIR-EUE 13P (F) D bootson 11-12-0 Mr N Kont (7) 14 P/P- QUEENS CURATE 379 Mrs & Scott 12-11-9 Mrss & West (7)	-
14 PAR- COURTERS CONTAINS 3/18 MICS E DESIGNATION IN MICES & MICES (1/)	-
2-1 (Sheet, 3-1 Andertead, 6-1 Dectar D'Eshavat, Cabo Hell, 7-1 Finch : Gern, 10-1 of	her.

5.00 CROXTON MARES ONLY INTERMEDIATE NATIONAL HUNT FLAT (£1.588: 2m 1f) (18)



COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS D Nicholson, 13 women; born 48 runners, 27 3%, P R Webber 6 from 24, 25 6%, P R Webber 5 from 24, 25 6%, P Robots, 6 horn 25, 24 6%, Mrs. M Reveley, 4 horn 20, 20 0%, R Dictim, 4 horn 22, 18 2% L Lungo, 3 from 17, 17 6%. JOCKEYS: J Magee, 4 womens from 15 rates, 26 7%, A Magune, 8 from 36 22.2%, R McSrath, 3 from 17, 17 5%, W Marston, 8 from 56, 13 8%, P Nivers, 3 from 24, 12.5%, J McCarthy, 3 from 25, 12.0%

SOUTHWELL

SPORT

THUNDERER

1 10 Kass Alhawa. 1.40 La Petite Flameche. 2.10 Czar Wars. 2.40 Pickens. 3.10 Bold Aristocrat. 3.40 Heathyards Jake. 4 10 Abtaal 4 45 Spa Lane.

TOTE JACKPOT MEETING GOING, STANDARD DRAW: NO ADVANTAGE

1.10 GREAT BEAR HANDICAP

(Div	1. £5	347	1m)	(15	runne	rs)				
101	3210	ARC 2	f 30	a an 5	-19-3 R	. وجو		PC	Jean I	7) 1
100	51-D	EURO	LINE!	MOUS	SAMP 3	8 J 5.20	4-10-0	С	LOWE	er 1.
123	0:4-	SPAR	عالك	HAFA	Y 23 /1	الصااد	ر الشادر:	9 g P	Cocnia	ne 1
104	5-15	GAHAI	LINE	4 /BF	COLF	Be4 6	4 1		anon (
105	-600	YAJTA	HED !	14 (8)	DSi G	L Moore	6 9.1	-	FNor	
106							zma l	68 10		
:07	-000	KHAT	TAFF 1	57 U	Perflain	4.8)			S Bard	
						ran 3 c	4		Pitts	
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117	330	BUMP	IES O	7 X	(C) 11	here :	r 1)	С	Conse	7.
113	50-0	MACTE	R SA	TEMP:	39 (n i s	Jerann: 1		i O	nar í
114	-065	NAME:	WA K	& P &	sec. 5-	-10	Journal .		JLov	P 14
							6.2 A-10	PM		
						_				
3-1 K3	- In	A . 4-1	(3m)	* 1	3011	THEIR	Ton: 10-1	Av: Ed	roi a la	4

1 40

1.40	NORTH STAR HANDICAP	
(Div I' \$2.	463 60 (10)	
202 0-42 203 -205 204 2506 205 35-1 206 2055 207 0241 208 00-0 209 0-00	ANDYATO S Nº DE NAS Nº MAGADIA / 5-10-0 Deam EURO VERTURE 7 (D) L' INCOLO 4 9 9 VIDING BISSIMO 7 (D) E 3) D' Cheprisip 5-9-6 SEA 1A MARTE 16 (B) CD) 5 BOARTIN 5 9-3 THAFAVER 14 (CD) 9 BOIL 49-3 ROSEVO 14 (V,C) (C) Chen 5-5-9 RV BERTIONE 11 (V CD) 5 L' Chen 5-5-9 RV BERTIONE 11 (V CD) 5 L' Chen 5-5-9 RV BUDE AWARDEMED 11 (CD E) C Fai Marz 5-8 5 1 G LA PETTE R' ARECENE 7 R 7 STANCOLO 4-8 5 7 10	P Doe 15, 5 A Cultiane 4 G Strange 9 I Spraye 7 Vinston 13, 2 Patrix 15, 6 rantham 17, 3 J Quinn 8
11-4 Esso Vero Anokalti Kitsh	ang 3-1 litang 6-1 mang Sayang Selata 7-1 Sa na 13-1 angga	a na filiado do co

2.10 GREAT BEAR HANDICAP

LDIA	11 23	334	1W) (15)					
301	2413	WAITE.	G FORCH	13 NJ	Dy Mais 16	Martines 4	16-1-6	A Proc	a 15
202	00-g	KWE	LS 4 (G)	W Ent	rain 🕹 🤌	12	.A	FAITHER	71.3
جناد						Syan 10 ye			
14						4-9-5 154			
365			BECKY					T Spra	ke 9
3.6						4-3-11	Dean	Michigan	n 12
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311			NLR					i Bardac	
312						\$200 4-7	-11	عضا جدر	
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314	p.g.	THE C	OTTOM	NOOL K	10 30 N	YEW: AT			
							lone!	Wands 15	9 11
315	/12-	POLAR	RETRAI	N 23C I	/B BF.D 5	a . Eye 6-	7 16 P	M Own i	67) T

7-2 High Noon 9-2 engang Boy 7-4 Wating knight Colden Link 6-4 Alan,m 10-1 Can Wart 12-4 Las Jadees German John Taragak, 14-4 lahera

2.40 SEA GOAT CLAIMING STAKES

ł	(12.204. [111 41) (0)	
		Martin Dayer 2
	400 -216 ABULLUGOD 13 (B.D) P Hactory 4-3-5	C Lowther 5
	403 0-01 MODNEAKING 7 /B,CD) VALL 5 Willow 6-9-4	J Savage (7) 6
	404 -601 PICKENS T (CD.F) Emico likera 7.94	Kirn Tinkter 1
	405 OUT FOR A CRUISE BSJ D Canullon 6-8-8	R Cochrane 3
ı	406 51-2 TIME OUT 14 (C) G M Minore 4-8-1	J Ottom 4
Į	7-4 Attailgood 9 4 Alcang, 4 1 Mooryalang, 11-2 Protects 10-17	eme Out 50 1 Cu
ı	For A Curca	

	J. I U NORTH STAR HANDICAP
	(Div II: £2,450: 61) (9)
	501 0030 REDOUBTABLE 7 (D.F.G.S) D. Chapman 8-9-12 A. Cuthana 3 502 1146 BLYON LEDGER 7 (V.CD.F) Ida; N.Racauley 10 9-7 P. McCabe 8
	503 320 COOL PROSPECT 119 k Ryan 4-9-7 R Cocurans 3 504 00-0 (CRIED FOR YOU 14 (V.F) (Given 4-9-3 , T G McLinightin)
	505 0-06 SHARP PEARL 10 (8.F) D Cozgrove 6-9-2 S Witneson's 506 1056 LEOFRIC 14 (C) M Polyless 4-8 9 Polyless 1-8 9 Polyless 1
	507 -050 NETY NORMAN 9 (G.S.) D Nicholis 5-8-8 F Norton 5 508 4062 BOLD ARISTOCRAT 4 (CD) R Honzeled 8-8-6 P M Culm 77 4
ı	100 0-03 SCURRILOUS 3 J L Hans, 4-8-4 Dean McKegwin &

3.40 FLYING DRAGON MAIDEN STAKES



4.10 PEACOCK SELLING STAKES (£1,898, 70) (11)

		JRY 99 (D.F.S)							
2 4	NE ABTAAL 4	IV,CD,F,G) MIT	N Marautry 9						
		ARK 28 K Come		P Faccion					
		EWS 14 (B) 0			hitwort				
5 -6	106 ITM TEF ?	(B.CO) T Easter	by 4-9-8 .	T C	hamod				
6 -0	XXX REVINYHO	LME 6 K Rvan 6 N 187 F Watson	. 864	D You	PD (7)				
7 0	og- shamokii	W 187 F Watson	7-9-8	Kimberley	Hari (5				
8 4	-00 CLUUDS (OF GLORY 28 (1	/] J Norten 4-P	.3 . 0	Pears				
9 D	6-0 CHALTAIR	SLVER 39 (V)	Mes L'intideli	5-9-3 RC	الجناعة				
10 D	-04 STRAVSE	4 9 B Haugh 4-9	1-3	T & Mc	aught				
17 0	-40 LOUGHAN	LEA 8 (B) D No	thalis 3-8-5 .	>	None				
3-1 Shlavsta, 4-1 Loughantes, 6-1 Scattlebusy, 13-2 Pm Tel. 7-1 Abtaal, Bioton F 8-1 Removinging 16-1 others									

4.45 MILKY WAY HANDICAP (£2,400. 2m) (16)

	- 1	60-0	FENERAL ASSEMBLY 32J (B.S) G Marijaroon 7-10	-0					
				Callan (5					
	- 2	05.1	DUEZON CITY 11 (CD,F) Miss J A Camacho 5-8-13	(5e9)					
	_		LC	harmock					
	- 2	0.24		O Pears					
	- 3	0.00	BIRTHPLACE B271 (G.S) J Eyra 9-B-12 R						
	- 5	000	HE'S GOT WINGS 475J (D.F.) M Peril 6-8-11 .	C Carro					
	6		Bally BOX 14 (D) Balding 7-8-10 5 V						
		90-2	DELT DUX 14 (U) I DAUMY 1-0-10	D O					
	1	-235	PERTEMPS MISSION 11 (V.D.F) J Pearce 5-8-18	n mici					
			SPA LANE 11 (BF.CO.F.G.S) Mr. S Lamyman 6-8-1						
	9	D-35	MUDLARK 11 (V) J Norton 7 8-0	Barowe					
			OLD HUSK WING 11 (F) Mrs M Reveley 6-7-12 Dal						
	11		DIGITAL OPTION 487 (VI Mrs in Macauley 5-7 11 A						
	12		PRINCESSE ZELDA 41 Mics L Statul 5-7-10 N						
	13	05/0	MONACLE 25 (E) John Burry 5-7-10 . Declar	n O'Shea					
	14	/D0-	BERNE'S STAR 48J M Bycom 5-7-10	F Nonor					
	15	DODO	TRANSPARENT 7 (G) U Caroli 7-7-10 P M O	um (7)					
	16	-100	SHRITTLECOCK 15 (C,S) D Chapman 8-7-10 M B	and (3)					
7-2 Quezon City, 4-1 Old Hush Wing, 9-2 Billy Box, 8-1 Spa Lane, 8-1 Mallun, M									
	Igil, 10-1 Pertemps Mission 16-1 offers								

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS If Bell, 3 somers from 7 remost, 42,9%. Six M Prescot, 22 som 80, 31,3%. Mass S Whiten, 10 som 50, 27,6%. D Carrell, 4 from 17, 23,5%, M Johnston, 42 from 214, 18,6%, P Hastern, 23 from 124, 18,5%. JOCKEYS: R FitzPainci. 8 winners from 32 rides. 36 4%, G Hannon. 3 born. 11, 27 3%, Minipatiey Hart, 11 from 49, 52 4%, P McCabe. 19 from 131, 145%, R Coctagne, 20 from 150, 13 3%, R Pixes. 10 from 79, 12,7%.

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Lingfield Park

Going: standam
2.00 (1m 5) 1, Bigwig (kV) Mondan, 4-1
Plan; Richard Evene's rep), 2, Time Can
Tel (9-1), 3, Nosey Naine (7-1). Philosoph(6)(h) 4-1, 4-by 12 (an 2/4, 5) G.I. Mode
Tota: C3 80, C1 40, C2 40, C2 60, DF
C16 10 CSF C35 04 Tincas (218 73 230 (2m) 1, Cry For Freedom (R Frice, 8-1), 2, Keepcake (11-2); 3, Albemme (12-1) Hake's Cracker 13-8 (av. 14 can 2) 31. J. Pearce Tote, £10-40, £3.50, £1.50, £8.60 DF £17-40 Tote Trilecta £365.00 CSF, £46.28, Tricast £494-42

3.00 (5) 1, Setonien (A Nicholis, 7-1), 2. Hall Tone (3-1 lav), 3, Squre Come (4-1) 7 ran 11-1, 11-1 P Felgale Tote, £8 70; £3 00, £2 20 DF £16 90 CSF £23 53 3.30 (1m 2) 1, Kind Str (A Eddery, 9-4) 2, Heberrare (6-1), 3, Approachable (33-1) Misconel (5th) 11-8 (av. 6 (an. 6), 11-1 B Halls Tote: 63-30, 62-30, 62-70 DF 66-20 CSF 614-11 4.00 (7h 1. Compton Akke (J Cunn, 11-2) 2. Gokomda (4-9 lav), 3. Tick N Pick (33-1) 6 ian Hd. 9l G Butler Tote 25 00. 52 10. 51.20 DF 52.50 CSF £7 88 4.30 (1m) 1, Royal Preview (C Caver, 2-1), 2, Dream On Me (3-1), 3, Majorie (1f-7) Done And Dusfed (4th) 8-4 fax. 4 ran 3-4, 3 M Bell Tote, £3 80, DF, £6.00, CSF £7.74

Jackpot: £19,292.70 - part won (pool of £21,738.34 carried forward to South-Placepot: £132.30. Quadpot: £13.30.

El Neil Graham yesterday won his appeal against the decision of the Ling-lield Park stewards to disquality his Az-haam in favour of Hormuz last Satur-day. The Jockey Cub's disciplinary committee found Antonio Polit, Az-haam's inder, quilty of careless inding and suspended him for two days (Feb-nany 15 and 16).

SNOW REPORTS /eau.. (5pm) *C CLUB Runs to Piste Resort Off/p Andoma Soldeu Austrie Kitzbühel Obergurgi Soll 90 100 Good Open Powder Snow -2 11/2 90 189 Good 60 270 Good 100 180 Good 150 460 Good Open Powder Cloud Open Powder Snow Open Powder Cloud Open Powder Fine St Anton Canada Lake Lourse France 140 180 Good Open Powder 11/2 175 300 Good Open Powder Fair -14 150 250 Good Open Powder Fair -13 190 400 Good Open Powder Cloud -20 190 300 Good Open Powder Snow -12 174 250 Good Open Powder Fair -10 190 300 Good Open Powder Cloud 10 170 270 Good Open Powder Fair -8 100 270 Good Open Powder Wind -8 158 260 Good Open Powder Fair -14 160 270 Good Open Powder Fair -17 150 320 Good Open Powder Fair -17 Alpe d'Huez Avonaz Reine La Pagne La Tania Les Arcs 11/2 11/2 11/2 11/2 11/2 11/2 11/2 Megeve Meribel Tignes Val Thorens M di Campiglio 60 120 Good Open Powder Switzerland Crans Montana 130 230 Good Open Powder Snow 130 230 Good Open Powder Snow -10 150 225 Good Open Powder Cloud -16 90 270 Good Open Powder Snow -10 170 250 Good Open Powder Snow -12 90 325 Good Open Powder Fine -12 90 150 Good Open Powder Fair -9 130 200 Good Open Powder Cloud -12 120 250 Good Open Powder Snow -5 100 180 Good Open Powder Cloud -11 11/2 10/2 11/2 11/2 10/2 9/2 11/2 Saas Fee St Moritz 11/2 Aspen Deer Valley 128 150 Good Open Powder Cloud 0 - 225 225 Good Open Powder Snow -7 L = lower slopes. U = upper slopes

for jump racing to resume

NATIONAL HUNT racing looks set to resume at Newbury and Bangor today. Frost has put paid to the jumping cards for the past three days. but temperatures are forecast to improve over the next 24 hours.

Officials at Newbury, due to race today and tomorrow. are cautiously optimistic about prospects of racing going ahead, despite a keen frost Wednesday night.

Richard Osgood, the estate manager, said yesterday: "It is due to get milder with a cloud cover for Friday night and Sat-urday. So, if the forecast is right, we should be okay."

Prospects for racing at Ayr tomorrow have improved dramatically. The track was frozen on Wednesday, but Richard Pridham, the clerk of the course, said: "It has warmed up and prospects for racing on Saturday are now very good."

However, Catterick will hold a 4pm inspection today to see if racing is possible tomorrow. A course spokesman said: "We are hopeful. A lot of the frost has come out of the

RICHARD EVANS

Name NATIVE FUNG-850 Newbury) Philip Hobbs's improving young chaser takes in jump in class but looks up to the challenge after novice victories.

NB: Knight's Crest (3.20 Barigot) Richard Evans tanded II. H ! double with Bigging (4 f. nap) and Royal Preview (2-1) at Lingfield yesterday.

RACELÎNE 09066 168+ NEWBURY 101 201 BANGOR 102 202 SOUTHWELL 103 203 G'HOUNDS 122 222 FUIT RESULTS SERVICE 168

Hopes rise NEVBUR THUNDERER 1.20 Quel Senor 2.50 Erintante 3.20 Orchestral Suite 1.50 Makounji

3.50 Barnageera Boy 4.20 Good Lord Murphy 2.20 Cartys Quest Timekeeper's top rating: 3.50 NATIVE FLING. Carl Evans: 3.20 Warren Boy.

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT (SOFT IN PLACES)

1.20 STROUD GREEN JUVENILE NOVICES HURDLE (4-Y-0: £4,533: 2m 110yd) (6 runners)

1 SCAFLET PREFERREL. 30 (0.5) (R Hambol) N Twiston-Dennes 11-5 ... C Unwebyin 94
2 11 TOM PADDINGTION 83 (0.5) (R Hambol) N Twiston 11-5 ... C Unwebyin 94
3 8 DORDER TRADER 425 (J Methodson 8 Misson) H Mounte 11-5 ... J Margue 31
4 ON THE RESHT SDE 4725 (5 Dougle) S Dougle 11-9 ... Mr C Rese 31
5 OUEL SENOR 90° (J Marton) F Doemes (Fr) 11-0 ... T Dougles 31
17TE 1847 (P Moore D Williagms 10-9 ... S Cafford — BETTING: 11-8 Ouel Senor, 15-8 Senits Properret, 2-1 Ton Paddington, 66-1 others. 1996, ZAFARABAD 11-5 R Johnson (4-6 lav) D Michalson 5 ran

Scarlet Perspersed best Numelling 51 in 10-rupner 4no nowice handle at Apuntin (2m. Neary): Torn Paddington best Hri And Ran 24-s is 6-summe 3 nonince handle of Celebrathan (2m. 19 to good bost), personally best the Eero Gene 61 in 15-summe 3/o nowice handle at Wincardon (2m. good to soil). Border Trader 541 6th of 9 to Asterino in 3/o suprece handle at Celebrathan (2m. 110/yd. good to soil). Quel Senor exelut performes at up to 1md on the Rat, successful in listed company. TOM PAIRWIGTON has already shown useful form and will make thougs difficult for Quel Sexon

1,50 ALDERMASTON NOVICES CHASE (£4,065: 2m 1f) (3 runners) 1998: MOON DEVIL 8-71-2 B Powell (11-1) M Campion 9 rat

Aureldia beat Act in Time 18f in 5-runnie novice chase at Sandown (2m 4)
118yd, soll) with Malcount (10th worse off) let Protentate beat Fragative
10th in 7-runnie novice chase at Chepston (2m 3) 110yd, soll)
prevenusty bed Royal Trast 14 in 4-runnie novice chase at Pumpton (2m, heavy). Malcount beat Cherrymore
17t in 4-runner novice chase at Leocasts (2m 4) 110yd, soll) MAKOUHLA rates a useful prospect and, in receipt of a stone from his and rivals, is the one to beat

2.20 FEBRUARY NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE

(£3,028: 2m 110yd) (9 runners)

BETTING: 5-2 Carrys Quest, 11-4 Pickel Piece, 6-1 Potar Champ. 7-1 Nachlapour, Gernsteine, 8-1 Albanston, 12-1 Beston Scamp, 16-1 others. 1996; KEN RISK 6-10-13 J Evans (12-1) M Plos 10 ran

Althonourus 144 Sth of 9 is Gracian Dat an morace burdle of Ammuna (Am., Althonourus 144 Sth of 9 is Gracian Dat an morace burdle of Ammuna (Am., Am CARLYS ONEST has benefitted for the litting of a visor, shaping well on his responsance

2.50 EASTLEIGH HANDICAP HURDLE (£5,965: 2m 5i) (9 numers)

Long handicap. (zangerous Guesi 9-11 BETTING: 5-2 Birtante, 4-1 Old Round, 5-1 Lady Choler, 6-1 Aerton, 7-1 Da Agapi Moss, 10-1 offices.

1998 - MIHLIGAN & TI-13 R Johnson (9-1) D Micholson & race 1998- MILLIGAN & 11-13 R Johnson (9-1) D Micholson 6 rac
Lady Cricket beat Raidada, Junction VI in 6-turnes hardle at Auteut Con
31 11-100, pood to 500). Entitates 5-9 Act of 10 to Sydney Opera in
the Randical Burdle of Entythen (2m 3), pood to earth, previously beat River Work 5-1 at 11-vanner handical Burdle of Entythen (2m 3), pood 16 and 10, previously beat River Work 5-1 at 11-vansoft) personally 5-8 7 in of 11 to Pago Aracierus in humican hardle at Sandown (2m 5), good). Programatic Pagil
Soft of 8 to Coldenge on bandican hardle at Warwick (2m) good). Old Reneral 9 2 and of 8 to Caste Over in the 15Soft of 8 to Coldenge on bandican hardle at Warwick (2m) good). Old Reneral 9 2 and of 8 to Caste Over in the 16burdle at Tainton (2m 11, beavy); previously 371 8th of 8 to Tainton to translate hardle at Casterover (2m 11,
good to Soft). Scoring Pedigner suited by in morks hardle grade 2 of Chespane (2m) of 119th, good to soft),
previously beat Energy 9 in 11-turner novice hardle at Rengion (2m 5), good to firm). Dangerous Guest
best Analytic tight 4 of 17-turner novice hardle at Hardlack (2m), good to Soft).

The softward Committee Expects (com b. hard to energia but the pro-

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☐ Rupert Nutrall, the Whithread Gold Cup-winning amateur, has been forced to retire. Numall, 39, won Sandown's big chase on Har-well Lad in 1997 but broke his neck while riding in a point-to-point last year. Yesterday, he said from his home in Somerset: "The consult-arts have told me I can ride but not at 30mph in races. I'm missing it hadly. I want to cominue working with National Hunt horses and in-tend expanding a school for teaching young horses to jump and curing problems in older horses."

FOOTBALL

Wilkinson left to sift through cinders of defeat

By OLIVER HOLT, FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

WILKINSON might have arrived at Wembley on Wednesday night feeling like Cinderella, but an hour after international football had chewed him up and spat him out, he was wandering through the stadium look-ing like the wrong Buttons. His face was drained of colour when he walked into the room where the media waited for

"I'd like a brandy," he said as he sank into his chair. There was no brandy, so he settled for a cup of black something warm," he said.

Suddenly, for the first time this week, he looked his 55 years. His jaununess had gone, the grey hairs around his temples seemed to be more prominent. He had not lost his courtesy and he did not search for excuses, but he did look painfully aware of the scale of the problems that England face as the countdown to their European championship qualifying match against Poland next month gathers pace.

It took a side such as France to expose those problems, a side with Zinedine Zidane and Youri Djorkaeff dancing between England's back four and midfield, helping to outnumber Paul Ince and Jamie Redknapp and unsettling Tony Adams and Martin Keown, who found themselves marking thin air - but it was England's failure to use possession when they finally got the ball back that worried Wilkin-

body to link midfield and attack. Paul Gascoigne will never be able to perform that far up the field again, even if he does make an improbable return to the national team in a more limited role. Teddy Sheringham is not even the first reserve for Manchester United and Paul Scholes is being used by Alex Ferguson more as an orthodox midfield player. This failing was cruelly ex-

posed by the world champions in their 2-0 win. Too often, Alan Shearer and Michael Owen found themselves isolated in attack. Neither excels at dropping deep to feed the other, both search out the same ground. The space between them and the midfield lengthened as the game went on until Redknapp and David Beckham were reduced to hitting relatively aimless long passes into the ether.

That fact alone, about just giving the ball away as we did, cost us dearly," Wilkinson said. "I can see in my mind in



Wilkinson walks away from Wembley with much to ponder

the first half a whole sequence of 15 or 20-yard passes where 99 times out of 100, the players concerned would say: 'I have got three choices here and, in choice is to play the first pass I England do not have a see, nice and simple, get our shape back, keep the bail off them and then start to build Zidane or a Djorkaeff any more. They do not have anyfrom there.' But we just gave it

> "I don't know what the answer is at the moment. I didn't know at half-time, other than to say we can't go on like this. When they had the ball, we were defending, working hard, staying on our feet, staying with people, trying to keep our shape, staying patient, winning the ball back, thinking thank God, now let's ... then, oh Christ, we've got to do it again. That was the pattern of the evening.

> Identifying the problem is one thing, fixing it another. The conundrum that will face Wilkinson, or whoever succeeds him, against Poland is whether to persist with Shearer and Owen, England's best forwards, or sacrifice one for the sake of a better collective performance. To keep both and try to accommodate a link player would unbalance the side. Owen will probably be consigned to the subsitutes' bench and Scholes would be the most likely choice to fill the

If England are going to gamble, it would be wiser to do so on the left side of midfield, where Darren Anderton was so ineffectual. It would be better, surely, to allow Steve Mc-Manaman to attempt a reprise of his success on that flank during the 1996 European championship. Like Anderton, he is not left-footed, but, with his dribbling ability, he could still

With him and Scholes playing slightly ahead of a central midfield three that is likely to comprise Beckham, David Batty and Nicky Butt, England would at least be nearer to the alliance of silk and steel that France have already forged.



One for all: Djorkaeff, Aneika, Desailly and Petit are now all plying their trade away from their homeland of France. Photograph: Marc Aspland

Superior thinking destroys England

for the discovery on England are two goals inferior to France - and two divisions below the conntry's self-estimation — is the belief that too many foreigners are imported, block-

ing the progress of English players. Ron Atkinson said as much during his television commentary, when he suggested that no other country mported as many and that the Bosman rule was sapping England of home-grown strengths. What are the facts, the fantasy and the fallacy behind that assumption? At the start of this season, only four clubs - Montpell-

ier. Athletic Bilbao, Placenza and Venezia - among the 94 teams in Europe's five leading leagues had no imported player. England employed 118 overseas players out of the 262 choices in the FA Carling Premiership (about 45 per cent). Germany had 98 out of 248 in its top flight (40 per cent). Spain 106 of 276 (38 per cent). Rob Hughes on how a nation desperate to succeed was left disappointed by ideas above its station

Italy 74 among 248 (30 per cent) and France 48 from 243

(20 per cent).
These figures change week by week, but in Italy, where clubs such as AC Milan scaled back on youth schemes to invest in foriegn stars, the imports have almost doubled in three years. The statistics are particularly acute in midfield, where overseas talents now outnumber Italians and where Dino Zoff, the national team coach, struggles to find players who, in the Italian phrase, "invent the game".

Italy's clubs remain dominant in Europe, but the reasons are apt to be French. Ziner of the year, bestrode Wembley with his liberated imagination, balance and touch. Youri Djorkaeff was his alert lieutenant and Didier Deschamns his runner.

All three earn a living in the All three earn a living in the than claim that coaching land of the lire. Emmanuel brought him through, those

Petit, the fourth musketeer of midfield, and Patrick Vielra, the first reserve, are the property of Arsenal. Arsene Wenger, their manager, sat in front of the royal box beside Gerard Houllier, the Liver-

pool manager.
"Football is strange," Petit said on Wednesday night. "Sometimes you play with, sometimes you play against. You have to be a chameleon." Chameleon or artist, the French noticed how England wilted in the second half and how this had to do with

he greater your skill. the less you strain to keep up. Zidane was French teaching, his ability grew wild in the poorest district of Marseilles and, rather Zidane under their wing acknowledge that it was more a question of coaxing than coaching. He had the gifts; their task was to persuade a quiet man to express himself, to impose. They did their job well.

However, it was Juventus that taught him to hurt the opposition with guile and it is in Italy, as much as in England and Germany, where pol iticians are searching for an answer to the Treaty of Rome, which, after the Bosman judg-ment, opened the floodgares to foreign players in football. Walter Veltroni, Italy's

Sports Minister, seeks to limit the impact by urging Italian clubs to field at least five Italtoo, it may come to that. European law will not change, but clubs might be persuaded, for the good of the nation, to apply voluntary restriction. France has the problem in

reverse. The World Cup raised a previously cool French perception of football to fever pitch, but it also raised expectations. The great French players are mercenaries abroad. some of them in London. Marie-George Buffet, their Sports Minister, has prepared a Bill to dissuade managers such as Wenger from stealing

players in embryo. Wenger took Nicolas Anelka, a double goalscorer at Wembley, to Arsenal at 17 and has returned to pluck Jérémie Aladière, 16. Buffet seeks to tie youths to the club that fostered them for three years after apprenticeship, but she faces opposition from clubs that need the money.

England must adjust and the moronic speciators who reviled the Marseillaise on Wednesday need to learn that their abuse does nothing but ing players. What France did. and what Hungary did in 1953, was to come to Wembley Stadium and teach England soundly that its notions of

superiority are outmoded.

Arsenal hit

hard for

vital match

BY GEORGE CAULKIN

INJURIES to Martin Keown.

Lee Dixon and Tony Adams.

all sustained during Eng-land's 2-0 defeat by France, are threatening to leave Arse-

nal with only a shadow team for the FA Carling Premier-

ship match with Manchester

United, the leaders, at Old

Trafford next Wednesday, a

game for which Emmanuel Petit and Dennis Bergkamp

Keown's hamstring strain

will keep him out for at least

three weeks, while Dixon,

who was concussed in a colli-

sion with Christophe Dugar-

ry, is already ruled out of the FA Cup fifth-round tie with Sheffield United tomorrow.

Adams has broken his nose.

"We could certainly have

are suspended.

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Phillips relishes Cup's taste of sweet and sour

AT FIRST glance, it might ap-pear that the players of Hud-dersfield Town have been more interested in darts this week than Derby County, their opponents tomorrow in the fifth round of the FA Cup. Indeed, David Phillips says that he has had to ignore challenges at the oche, for it is touch and go whether his back can stand the strain — "especially after holding all those

pints of beer". No matter that the Nationwide League first division side are awaiting the visit of one of the better members of the FA Carling Premiership, a team bristling with internationals tell-tale signs of pressure or nerves are hard to find. Beneath the humour and jokes. they are relishing the prospect at the McAlpine Stadium, and lew more than Phillips, 35. Huddersfield's vastly experi-enced midfield player. Years ago, he doubted that he would

even be playing at his age.
"When I came into the game 17 years ago, you always thought your career would be over by 30," he said, "but when I was 30. I realised it wasn't like that any more and that I could go on, although it's more a case of brain against brawn

as you get older.
"I wouldn't like to be like Michael Owen or David Beckham. Life is so intense for them. I've managed to surpass the goals that I have set myself and I know I'm lucky." Phillips picks out the high-lights: signing his first profes-

Stephen Wood meets a player who won at Wembley and lost at Sutton

sional contract at Plymouth Argyle; making his first big move, to Manchester City: earning a first cap for his be-loved Wales and, perhaps his most exciting achievement, be-ing part of Coventry City's FA

Cup Final win over Totten-ham Hotspur in 1987. "The whole experience was phenomenal." Phillips realled. "We beat Manchester United on the way and then came back from two goals down to beat Leeds in the semi-final. That sort of thing

doesn't happen very often.
The club spoilt us by taking us on a couple of trips to Spain and the spirit in the team was so good we had meetings in



Phillips: proud to be Welsh

the sauna or by popping down the pub. On the day of the fi-nal, John Sillett [the Coventry joint-manager], told us just to enjoy ourselves." More painful are Phillips's

recollections of Coventry's third-round exit to Sutton United in 1989. "That was a bad weekend. My son watched the highlights on television and then said to me: 'Dad, Coven-try are rubbish.' It is typical of John [Sillett] that on one side of the mantelpiece he has his Cup-winner's medal and on the other some Sutton seed. That sums up the highs and lows of football."

Phillips's own memorabilia are displayed around a bar at his home in Learnington Spa. where a Wales flag flies at the bottom of the garden. It was a Welsh connection that helped attract Phillips to Hudders-field, on a free transfer from Nottingham Forest, for he has great respect for Terry Yorath, the former Wales coach, who now assists Peter Jackson, the

Huddersfield manager. The FA Cup has often beengood to Phillips, who is hoping to help Huddersfield to their first quarter-final for 27 years. He was in the Plymouth team that reached the semi-finals in 1984 — and they beat Derby during that run. "I shall go into tomorrow with that positive thought," he said. "Admittedly, it was 15 years ago and I don't suppose Paolo Wan-chope will be too bothered by it. He's probably never even heard of Plymouth."

Harding playing for keeps

FOR John Harding, the stakes are high. If he can haul Farnborough Town off the foot of the Nationwide Conference in their remaining 15 matches, a full-time appointment as manager will be his. The promise has been made by the consortium that expects to be installed at the Hampshire club by the end of the month and plans big improvements to Cherrywood Road if the side stay up.

Harding's appointment to the end of the season on Sun-

day, after the dismissal of

NON-LEAGUE FOOTBALL BY WALTER GAMMIE

Alan Taylor in the wake of a 5-1 home defeat by Hayes, left him two days to prepare for a trip to Dover Athletic — who rose to third in the table with a 2-1 victory. "I didn't have time to organise anything." he said.
The commitment was excellent, however. Several people said it was the best from Farnborough for some time."

Harding has already made changes. Swart Mackenzie,

the goalkeeper, will be rested; Colin Simpson, a forward, has been signed on loan from Leyton Orient; a notice of approach has been lodged for Paul Barrowcliff, of Hayes; and Harding admits interest in Mike Bignall, the forward on the transfer list at Kiderminster Harriers. Barrowcliff and Bignall are known to Harding from his days as assistant manager to Paul Fairclough at Stevenage Borough.
Farnborough play Hereford
United at home tomorrow.

done without these prob-lems," Arsène Wenger, the Arsenal manager, said yesterday. "It is always tough when you play Manchester United Dixon will be touch-and-go." Mark Hughes has been suspended for two matches, fined E2.000 and warned as to his fu-ture conduct by the Football

Association after picking up his fourteenth yellow card in 24 games for Southampton this season. The Wales international, 35, has already served three suspensions and was hauled to Lancaster Gate late last year to explain his be-haviour. "He clearly realises that he is going to be in very serious trouble if he receives another three cautions," an FA spokesman said. Robert Lee, the Newcastie

United and England midfield player, who has been attracting attention from Southampton, Leicester City and West Ham United, has admitted that his days at St James' Park may be numbered, despite signing a new three-year contract at the start of the season.

Vassilios Borbokis, Sheffield United's Greece international, held conciliatory talks with Steve Bruce, the United manager, yesterday after being placed on the transfer list for taking unauthorised leave. Borbokis returned to Greece without permission last week. claiming that he needed a "rest" to recover from injury.

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RUGBY UNION

Wales hand Quinnell passport to Wembley

By David Hands, rugby correspondent

IF CRAIG QUINNELL comes under close scrutiny by Wales this weekend, he is only one of a clutch of players hoping to impress national selectors before the second round of the Five Nations Championship.

Quinnell has as much to gain as any of them. He was named yester-day in the Wales squad from which the XV to play Ireland at Wembley on February 20 will be named. He would surely have played against Scotland last week but for the knee ligament injury that he sustained on duty for Richmond against Leicester last month.

If he comes through his club's Allied Dunbar Premiership game with Sale at Reading on Sunday he is not yet certain to play - Quinnell is likely to earn a recall at the expense of Ian Gough in a team requiring greater physical presence

WALES SQUAD

Univarius II anomis (Swansea), A Lewis (Car-ill), C Anthony (Swansea), D Young (Cardin), I Umphreys (Cardin), B Williams (Fichmond), I ough (Polypondi), C Wystt (Llanele), C Claryfs Warsea), G Lewis (Pontypndd), M Williams Onlypondi), B Quinnell (Lisnele)

in the tight five. Quinnell, 23, played in both of Wales's pre-Christmas internationals, against South Africa and Argentina, and is the only significant addition to the party. David Young, the experienced Cardiff prop, also joins the squad of 22 that did duty against Scotland, but that is not unexpected given that he withdrew barely 24 hours before the game at Murrayfield with a damaged calf muscle. He is due to confirm his fitness

against Bath tomorrow. in essence. Graham Henry, the Wales coach, is confirming his faith in the squad selected against Scotland, showing the same consisten-cy that Warren Gatland, his Ireland counterpart, has done. Henry may take the view that the 33-20 defeat against Scotland included two aberrations - the try from the kickoff by John Leslie and Gregor Townsend's interception score -but he will also look for improvement from some senior players.

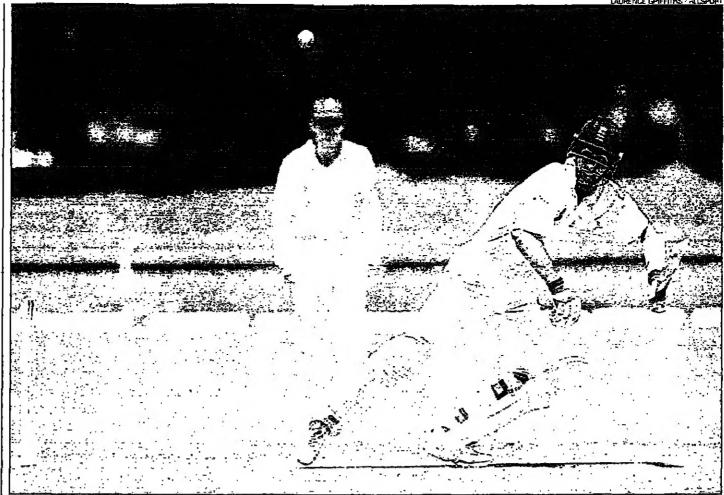
Selectors of A and under-21 teams will also be out in force, notably at Welford Road, where 14,000 spectators are expected for the match between Leicester, the Premiership leaders, and London Irish, third in the first division and unbeaten in their past nine games. Neil Hatley and Richard Kirke, both selected in the latest England A training squad, will be pressing their claims in an Exiles XV to which Conor O'Shea and Justin Bishop are restored after international duty, while Nick Harvey displaces Matthew Bird at lock.

The first England A international of the season is against Scotland at Leeds next Friday and Richmond will hope to be well represented. Should Clive Woodward, the England coach, be at Reading to assess the form of David Rees, the Sale wing, he will also have the chance to watch a Richmond side likely to include nine players qualified for England, among them Spencer Brown on the wing and Adam Vander, the in-form flanker.

I admit I'm biased, but I regard Adam as the No 2 behind Neil Back on form," John Kingston, the Richmond director of rugby, said. It has not been the best of weeks for Kingston, who saw his side docked two Premiership points for their failure to play Harlequins last November and lost the game away to Newcastle to the weather on Wednesday. It will now be played on April 21.

Wasps, too, have emphasised their commitment to the national cause by fielding a back division all qualified for England and all under 25, though this weekend they restore Kenny Logan, the Scotland wing, against Bedford at the

expense of Shane Roiser. In the women's game, Saracens will play their own second XV in defence of the Bread For Life Cup. which reaches the semi-final stage on Sunday: The other game takes Old Learningtonians, who have reached the last four for the first time, to Richmond.



Vaughan, of England A, on his way to making an unbeaten 60 against Zimbabwe A in the second international at Bulawayo yesterday

England left in World Cup limbo

SO FAR as England were con-cerned, it was Black Wednesday. Although it is sensible not to inflate a poor one-day result into a bubble of despair, the manner of the ten-run defeat in Sydney, when the game lay within their embrace, shocked them to the quick. It was a chastened group of players that arrived in Melbourne.

Conceivably, it might be a knockout blow. England began the triangular tournament brightly, ended the long qualifying process with four defeats out of five and needed to win the first final at the Sydney Cricket Ground to prove to themselves, no less than Australia, that their appetite was undiminished. They failed, and it makes the

task of beating Australia in the remaining two matches all the more formidable. With the World Cup three months away, not all the questions have been answered satisfactorily. England will enjoy home advantage in that competi-tion and the pitches (and balls) will be different to the conditions that prevail in Australia, but the composition of the first-choice XI has be-

come more sketchy, not less.

At this stage of their preparations, when they hoped that it
would be a case of tidying things up, they find themselves in a muddle. David Graveney, the manager of this part of the tour, denied that

FROM MICHAEL HENDERSON IN MELBOURNE

there had been any recriminations after the way that England threw it away, but to his credit, he did not disguise the depth of feeling in the dressing-room. There is a difference between

losing and being beaten," he said. Only once in this competition have we been beaten. In every other case, we have contributed to our own defeat."

England seem to get the collywobbles every time they come within touching distance of their target against bowlers such as Warne and McGrath. To lose six wickets

A TENSE day of oscillating for-

tunes ended tamely when both cap-

tains decided that enough was

enough with one over of the final

session still to be bowled and England 30 runs short of victory (John

Stern writes). Both sides can feel

that opportunities were missed in

the pursuit of victory, but the result

means that England are 1-0 up in

the series with one match to play.

HOCKEY

for 24 runs in Sydney, after they had bowled and fielded so well. was unpardonable - and the fact that it occurs so frequently is of genuine concern. A good deal of rethinking will take place before the party of 15 is named for the World Cup and some players pencilled in may find a line through their candi-

expected summons. Almost overnight. Vince Wells. who added 33 handy runs to his

dature. Others may receive an un-

three wickets on Wednesday, finds himself in an advanced position that he can hardly have dreamt of. **Bulbeck opts for safety**

WELLINGTON (final day of four): New Zealand Under-19 drew with Having been set 221 to win, England took tea at 133 for five. All England Under-19 four results were still possible and, crucially for the touring side.

Michael Gough was still there on 61, having added 45 for the sixth wicket with Matt Bulbeck. However, when Gough miscued James Franklin to extra cover and departed for 69, Bulbeck and Joe Tucker, two Somerset bowlers both batting with runners, opted for the safety of a draw, which they achieved comfortably, Bulbeck finishing unbeaten on 50.

The Leicestershire all-rounder was whisked here from club cricket in New Zealand to augment the party as a "just-in-case" selection and he must feel like a child in Hamley's on Christmas Eve.

He plays down suggestions that he will be in the World Cup party. "At the moment all 1 hope is to hear my name read out before the game." he said. "To have a chance of being involved in a World Cup is something players dream about."

Wells has had an interesting career. As a schoolboy footballer, he was on Leyton Orient's books for four years, playing centre forward. He switched to cricket in his native Kent, but moving to Leicestershire in 1992 was the making of him. He played a full part in the championship win of 1996 and when they won it again last year.

Now, he is earning respect from his England colleagues. "I have had good support from the other lads to play my natural game." he said. "At my age [33], I don't have too much to lose and have quite a lot to gain. It's nice to know they feel I am capable of doing a job."

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Zimbabwe are sent spinning by Swann

FROM THRASY PETROPOULOS IN BULAWAYO

BULAWAYO (third day of five): England A, with seven second-innings wickets in hand. are 282 runs ahead of Zimbaiwe A

IT LASTED only five overs and one ball, but Graeme Swann's spell of four wickers for six runs shortly after lunch vesterday gave England A an advantage in this second international that should prove decisive. Already, their lead stands at 282 and, with the probability of quick runs this morning. Zimbabwe A will be made to bat the best part of two days to save this match. With the weather for once on this tour set fair, their fate should already be scaled.

Swann's performance was more remarkable for the fact that at lunch his figures read 10-1-46-0. In 31 balls after the interval, the off spinner dismissed Bryan Strang. Andy Whittall and Dirk Viljoen. who all perished sweeping, and Adam Huckle, caught, bat-pad, b. Robert Key, Zimbabwe A, at one stage 202 for five, had tumbled to 223 all out, giving England a first-innings lead of 160.

The significant wicket in the spell was that of the left-handed Viljoen. who was comfortably the most assured of the batsmen during his innings of 57. Viljoen suffered the indignity of a pair on his only Test match appearance, when opening against Pakistan, but, on the evidence of this series, it should not be long before he earns himself an extended run in the national team.

The only other innings of note from Zimbabwe A came from Blignaut, who clattered four sixes. two off Swann, before being run out after a mix-up with Viljoen. Stuart Carlisle's promising contribution of 39 came to an end when, carving Steve Harmison to third man, Mal Loye held a spectacular. left-handed catch on the boundary.

Michael Vaughan and Darren Maddy, the opening batsmen, extended the lead to 210 in the England A second innings before Maddy edged Strang to the wicketkeeper. Vaughan was unruffled by his departure and reached the close undefeated on 60.

Vaughan got stuck on 49 for more than half an hour, during which time two wickets fell. Loye miscued as he attempted to hit Andy Whittall over the top and Key was desperately unlucky when a full-blooded pull off the same bowler deflected off Viljoen to Guy Whittall at mid-wicket.

SPORT

MOTOR RALLYING

Finns best suited to the snow

FROM JEREMY HART IN KARLSTAD, SWEDEN

TOMMI MAKINEN, the world rally champion, has an air of invincibility as he starts the Swedish Rally in Karlstad today. The Finn has been unbeauable in the race for the championship for the past three years and, in the past seven months, has failed to

win only once.
"For Finland last summer. we suddenly found a good feeling for the car and since then it has been the car to beat." Makinen, 34. said. overlooking, for a moment, the fact that his incredible run of good results has been partly due to misfor-tunes suffered by his rivals.

"In the end, it is the result that matters," he said, "but the others" bad luck has made them angry. Carlos [Sainz] went out in Monte Carlo just weeks after he stopped just before the finish of the rally of Great Britain. He is mad now and wants to heat me."

Sainz, driving a Toyota, must make history if he is to win in Sweden on Sunday. No non-Scandinavian has won the snow rally. More likely to challenge the Finn in the second round of the world championship are two of his countrymen - Marcus Gronholm. in the fast improving SEAT. and Juha Kankkunen, who finished second in Monte Carlo in his first rally for Subaru.

There is less snow that normal, which might give the southern Europeans a bit of help, but this is still an event where the Vikings dominate," Kankkunen said.

Richard Burns, of Subaru, and Colin McRae, of Ford. both of Great Britain, have done well in Sweden. Last year. Burns set three fastest stage times. McRae could yet shock the rally world after a month of controversy surrounding his Martini Ford Focus's oversized water pump. The pump has been replaced by a standard unit, but the Scot is confident that performance will not suffer.

BOWLS

Sutherland and Jones drop out

BY DAVID RHYS JONES

ANN Sutherland and Rita Jones were celebrating last night after winning the Welsh women's indoor fours and triples respectively, but they will not be representing Wales in the British Isles championships in Belfast next month. Sutherland, from the Tor-

faen club in Cwmbran, and Jones, who plays for Islwyn in Pontlianfraith, have been selected to play outdoors in the Atlantic Rim Games in Cape Town and will have left for South Africa when the British

event gets under way. Scheduling an international outdoor event during the indoor season has not gone down well with the officials of the indoor game, who claim that their flagship event has been devalued.

At least Torfaen will be repre-sented in the British triples and Islwyn in the fours, because substitutes will be found for Sutherland and Jones, but the Scotland bowlers have been

left aggrieved. Margaret Letham, the new Scottish indoor singles champion, will be in Cape Town, attempting to add Atlantic medals to ber Commonwealth Games pairs gold. Substitutions are not allowed in the singles, so Scotland will miss out on the

line McAllister last winter. No problems for Wales in that department: Aeres Davies, the first Bro Ddyfi player to win a national title, is not in the Wales Atlantic Rim team. Davies defeated Val Howell, of Merthyr Tydfil, 21-13, in the singles final at the Bro Myrddin club, Carmarthen, yesterday, while Lisa Oliver, from Llanelli, beat Paula Summerfield, 21-18, to win the under-25 crown. Summerfield, 24, hit back to win the pairs with Joanna Jones, her club colleague, who is 23. The Radnor-

chance of retaining the British

title, which was won by Caro-

Smith to reinforce **Old Loughtonians**

By Sydney Friskin and Cathy Harris

SCOTT SMITH returns from indoor activities with Canada to rejoin Old Loughtonians for two matches in the National League premier division this weekend, against East Grinstead at home tomorrow and Canterbury away on Sun-

Smith missed the match against Cannock last week. when Old Loughtonians lost 6-2 "Scott's return will strengthen our attack." Nigel Creswell, the Old Loughtonians manager, said yesterday. "He will join forces with Thompson, who scored the two goals against Cannock from short corners."

by the return of Garrard from injury. Colciough is still injured, however. Canterbury have not yet

Canterbury, the league leaders, travel to Oxshort tomor-row to play Teddington, whose defence is reinforced

solved all their own injury problems. Hacker is back at

centre half, but Kerly Mathews and Danny Laslett will be

missing.

Ipswich, the women's premier division leaders, who could field only II fit players last week, still have an extended injury list for their league and EHA Cup double-header against Clifton this weekend. Sandie Lister, their captain. said that Ipswich, the only undefeated side in the division. are confident that Colleen Adcock, the defender, will play some part in both matches after recovering from a back injury. Jane Cook returns, but Sa-

Lucy Youngs, the former Eng-land midfielder, are ruled out. Lister said: "It will be tough because Clifton are anxious to secure a place in the top four and qualify for the play-offs." Pauline Robertson, the Scotland captain, is expecting her first child and will miss the European championship in

Second innings

*M A Gough c sub b Frankin
I N Flantgoan c and ti Shaw
I R Bell this b Marin
M A Carberry Itse b Marin
G R Harywood c Pappe b Marin
R N J Dawson b Shaw

M.P.L. Bulbeck not out J.R. Tucker not out Extras fo 14, to 7, w 1, no 16)

Total (6 wids) 191 FALL OF WICKETS 1-53, 2-58, 3-58 4-58 5-68, 6-149

5-88,6-149
BOWLNG Shaw 20-4-49-2 Hamenond
94-1-31-0 Hendry 02-0-6-0 Marin
32-17-47-3 Frankin 15-5-41-1 Papps

Umpres RiGarland and RiD S Alexander

TOUR MATCH: Kochi (first day of three) Palastanis 247-9 dec (Moin Khan 67, Inzamam-ul-Hag 65), Indian Board President's (0.35-0

rah Bamfield, the striker, and

to regain fitness By CATHY HARRIS LYN CARPENTER, the

Surrey and England shooter, is struggling to be fit in time for the one-off international against South Africa in Manchester on February 22 after tearing ankle ligaments in a county match last week. Carpenter is attending a

four-week training camp with the England squad in Kettering, but has not trained since sustaining the injury. Carpenter, a former Great Britain basketball international, said: "I snapped three ligaments three years ago and. as soon as it happened, my first thought was I might miss the Springbok game. I'm optimistic about my chances, but it's terribly disappointing missing all the training."

The good news for Mary Beardwood, the England coach, is that Lorraine Law, the Essex Met shooter, who missed England's 55-26 victory over Wales last month because of a similar ligament

FOOTBALL

INTERNATIONAL MATCHES: England 0 France 2 (al Wembley), Iroland 2 Paraguay 0 (al Lansdowne Road) Tunisa 0 Sweden 1

Wednesday's late results

injury, is making an excellent recovery and is certain to be included against South Africa. The accuracy of England's

shooting against Wales was disappointing and it is an area that Marg Caldow, the former Australia captain, who is giving the England squad tuition in their preparations for the World championship in New Zealand in September. has been concentrating on.
"The attacking third is still

giving away too much possession," Caldow said. "If England want to be serious contenders. they eliminate this fault."

For the shooters, developing a technique that will hold up under pressure has been a critical area. "The technical training prepares us to be 100 per cent confident when we walk on court." Carpenter said. "That's the difference between us and Australia and New Zealand - it's a real surprise to them when they miss."

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): Tampa Bay 4 St Lous 5, Toronto 5 Carolina 6 Chicago 3 San Jose 5, Pricero 3 Los Angeles 0 Anahem 5 Philadelphia 4

RUGBY UNION

CLUB MATCHES: Comwall 31 Floyal Navy 10 Cambridge University 42 Army 25 WELSH LEAGUE: Premier division: Neath 24 Danch 21

SCHOOLS SPORT

RUGBY UNION: Hampton 24 Tillin 12 St Benedict's 24 Gunnersbury 10

SNOOKER

WEMBLEY: Benson and Hedges Mas-ters: Second round: R O'Sultran (Eng) bi J Waltara (Than 6-5 M kung (Eng) bi P Ebdon (Eng) 6-5 Quarter-fmai: A Mc-Manus (Scol) bi M Williams, (Wales) 6-4

TENNIS

pays for drug affair CYCLING: The fall-out from

Paris-Nice

the 1998 Tour de France doping scandals has stretched to the Paris-Nice classic, the second-most important stage race in France. The 1909 Paris-Nice is suffering a significant drop in sponsorship and in participation from the world's leading riders. Laurent Jalabert, the French champion and three times a Paris-Nice winner, will miss the traditional opener to the season, which begins on March 7, after the decision of ONCE, his Spanish team, not to venture on to French soil

as police investigations continue into drugs in cycling. "It's sad that we have come to this." Josene Leuillot, the race organiser, said.

RUGBY LEAGUE: The new Gateshead Thunder JJB Super League club yesterday announced a £500.000 sponsorship with Northern Electric and Gas over three years. Hospitality boxes for the opening fixture against Leeds Rhinos at Gateshead International Stadium on March 7 are sold out and two further kit sponsors are to be

announced shortly. CRICKET: Cardigan Connor, 37, the Hampshire pace bowler, has been forced to retire from first-class cricket because of a long-term knee injury. Connor has taken 1.019 wickets in all competitions for Hampshire since making his debut in 1984, including 614 in the

GOLF: Two more home venues have been announced for the Curtis Cup women's amateur match against the United States. Formby will host the event in 2004 and the Old course at St Andrews in 2008, the United States

won back the trophy from Great Britain and Ireland last August in Minneapolis.

first-class game.

FOR THE RECORD

August

1-0-2-0

ATHLETICS

MALNEO, Sweden: Brogalan Indoor meeting: Selected events: Men: 60m; 1.
J. Gardener (GB) 6 54sec; 2. R Stewart (Jam) 6 56; 3. I. Christe (GB) 6 50; 4. D Campbell (GB) 6 73 200m; 1. K Lmte (US) 20,81.2, M Urbas (Pol) 21 08. 3. Campbell 21 09 400m; 1. J Bautch (GB) 46.78. 2, P Diedo (Men) 47 33, 3. O Douglas /Nort 49 05. Women: Pole vauft; 1, A Balakhonov; (UK) 4 30m; 2. Sun Cappa (Christ) 420; 3. V Flosscholir (bc) 4.10 British placing; 5, J Whatock (GB) 4 0

BASKETBALL

UNR-BALL TROPHY: Semi-finals, first leg: Sheffleid Sharks 77 Manchester Gents 81; Derby Storm 88 Lexester Riclers 75. 81; Derby Storm 88 Ledester Robers 75.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): Chartome 77 Cleveland 87, New Jarsey 81

Orlando 89, New York 101 Washington 88.

Houston 92 Sacramento 82. Deriver 98 Los

Angeles Lakere 103. Golden Safe 82

Seattle 88; Portland 100 Indiana 52, Vancouver 105 Los Angeles Cippers 99

CRICKET

International matches Zimbabwe A v England A BULAWAYO (lourth day of live). England A, with saven second-minings wickers in hand, are 282 runs ehead of Zimbabwe A ENGLAND A: First Invings 363 (M & Loye 133, V S Solania 65, D L Macody 64, A R Whil-lail 4 for 88; B C Strang 4 for 107)

"M P Vaughan not ou!
D L Maddy c Gurt b Strang
M B Loye c Cariste b A R Whotai
R W T Key c G J Whotai b A R Whitai
A Finiofi not ou!
Extras (nb 1). Total (3 wids). FALL OF WICKETS 1-50, 2-87, 3-90.

FALL OF WICKETS 1-50, 2-87, 3-90.

SOWLING. Streng 14-5-37-1. Bignout 4-2-16-0, G.J.Whitall 10-5-25-0; A.R.Whitall 9-2-27-2, Huddle 9-3-17-0.

shire players became the

youngest pair to win the title.

ZIMBABWE A: First Innings ZTMBABWE At First Innings
I R Gripper c Read to Finitoh
C B Wishart flow to Cosker
I N Medondo c Swann to Harmson
G J Whittail to Cosker
S V Carliste c Loyo to Harmson
D P Valuen c Maddy to Swann
A M Bignaul run oul
B C Strang c Harmson to Swann
"A R Whintail c Key to Swann
I C P Gurr not out
A G Huckle c key to Swann
Extras (b 4, b 4, w 1, nb 5)

223
FALL OF WICKETS: 1:36, 2:54, 3:55, 4:55, 6:125, 6:202, 7:208, 8:208, 9:219.
BOWLING: Lewry 18-8:52-0 Harmison 17-6:29:2; Fintoff 13:5:25-1, Cosker 29:5:57-2; Swann 15:1-5:52-4 Umpires: G R Evens and E J Gilmour

New Zealand Under-19 v England Under-19 WELLINGTON (final day of four) England Under-19 drew with New Zeeland Under-19 NEW ZEALAND UNDER-19: First Improps 110 (J P. Tucker 5 for 35) Second limings
M Papps low b Bridge
T Mchilosh low b Bridge
T Mchilosh low b Haywood......
B Petron c Wallace b Tuck er
"Ji Englefield c Wallace b Whitey
J McNamee low b Bridge......
I P McGlashan b Drawson.
M Hendry C Wallace b Bridge
B Martin not out
L Hammond c sub b Dawson
H Shaw c Gough b Dawson......
Edras (b 15, lb 12)
Total

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-144, 2-172, 3-249, 4-275, 5-284, 6-303, 7-321, 8-335, 9-335 BOWLING: Bulbeck 23-8-47-0. Whiley 27-7-55-1; Haywood 17-2-6-52-1 Tucker 14-4-45-1; Dawson 45-4-20-64-3 Bridge 44-24-45-4

TODAY'S FIXTURES

FOOTBALL

Colchester v Wigan (7 45)

Rochdale v Hull (7.45)

FOOTBALL LEAGUE YOUTH ALLI-ANCE: Midland Conference: Mansfield v Strewsbury (1 30) CENTENARY SHIELD INTERNATIONAL MATCH (under-18). Endand v Northern ke-land (a) Darlington, 7.15).

Nationwide League

Second division

Third division

FAI HARP NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier division: Bohemans v Fah Herps (7.45). Bray v Cotk (7.45), Shebourne v Shamroov (7.35), Waterford v UCD (7.45) RUGBY LEAGUE Silk Cut Challenge Cup Fourth round

Watefield v Batley (8 0) OTHER SPORT BASKETBALL: Budweiser League: New-casile Eagles v Derby Storm (7:50), Shel-held Sharks v Milion Keynes Lions (7:45)

Olal Larsdowne Roadi Tunisa o Sweden 1 (in Tunis). Poliugal O Holland O (in Poris). Croatia O Denriani 1 (in Sphi). Italy O Notivavi) in Peaj. Argentina 1 Mesico O tin Les Angeles, Peru 1 Ecuadio 2 (in Lime). Jamaica 1 Costa Rica 1 (in Kingston). RYMAIN LEAGUE: Vanidanie Trophyseoond round: Harbon O Edynere 1 AVON INSURAINCE COMBINATION: First division: Barrier O Wycombe 3 Chestion 4 Carcondige 5 Colchesse O Swendon 1 Southampton 7 Orlord 1 Brighton 0 Milwall O PONTIN'S LEAGUE: First division: Bolton 2 Shichled Wed 0 Manchester City O Por Vale O Second division: Huddersfield 2 Scarborough 3 League Cup: Group stic Nots Ceurin 0 Brastiond 2 Jewison 1 Eague Cup: Group stic Nots Ceurin 0 Brastiond 2 Nots Count 0 Brestord 2
JEWSON LEAGUE: Premier division:
Isswach Wanderers 1 Sudbury Town 4
MINERYA SPARTAN SOUTH MID-LANDS LEAGUE: Chatlenge Trophy-Third round: Russip Manor 2 Harwell 1
THE TIMES FA YOUTH CUP: Fourth round: Choisea 1 Newcasile 1 Notini-Forest 1 Sunderland 1
UNIBOND LEAGUE: Chatlenge Cup: Third-round replay: Gansborough () Blyth Spatians 1

Spariars ! Unijet Sussex County League: First division: Pagham 0 East Preston 3 WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE: Premier division: Cray 2 Canterbury 1

ICE HOCKEY SEKONDA SUPERLEAGUE: Manchestel Storm 6 Notingham Parithers 0

DUBAL OPEN: Second round: F Clavel (Sp) to G Rusodsh (GB) 3-6, 7-5, 6-2, G Rushen (Bi) bi J van Herst (Bei) 6-3, 6-2, J Golmard (Fri bi K Kucera (Stevalkn) 7-6, 6-1; Golmard (Fri bit Klucera (Streaker) 7-6, 6-1; Thenman (GB) bil JBjorkman (Swe) 6-3, 7-6 SAN JOSE, Colifornia: Sybase Oppor, First round: R Delgado (Pari bil E Steven (N2) 5-7, 6-4, 7-5; M Rodroguez (Arg.) bil A Hernandez (Mes) 6-4, 6-7, 6-3 Socond round: B Farbacher (Ger) bil S Larcay (Carr) 6-3, 6-7, 6-3, C Rudo (Nor) bil P Goldsken (US) 6-7, 6-3, C Rudo (Nor) bil P Goldsken (US) 6-6, 6-6 (Alpassa delaulied), M Chang (US) bil F Squillan (Alg.) 6-4, 7-6

Garcia gets just deserts

FROM JOHN HOPKINS GOLF CORRESPONDENT IN DUBAI

GOLF is a game of such longevity that it constantly juxtaposes youthful promise and gnarled experience. That was the case when Nick Faldo and Justin Rose were competing in a tournament in Johannesburg last month. It was also the case yesterday with Severiano Ballesteros and Sergio Garcia in the first round of the Desert Classic at the Dubai Creek course.

A few years ago, if one Spaniard had scored 68 and the other 78, it would have been Ballesteros to whom you attributed the four-under-par score and Garcia the six over. These days, Ballesteros, 41, is a professional who plays like an amateur, Garcia, 19, is the one who looks, talks and scores as well as a professional.

Garcia is a professional in all but name. He plays fulltime and has all the trappings of one who earns his living from the game. He is the most exciting amateur in world golf since Tiger Woods. He won eight events last year, including the Amateur Championship, but will not defend his title in June. The only question is when he will turn professional and the informed betting is after the Masters, perhaps at the Spanish Open two weeks later.

There seems to be no reason to wait any longer. He has served his apprenticeship and, as he demonstrated in this, his second tournament of the year, having finished third behind two professionals in his first, he is good enough to compete against anyone.

His round was full of big hitting, deft work around the greens and it positively brimmed with youthful promise. The fairways here are very narrow and the rough very thick. Hit the ball into the rough and it is almost certainly a wasted stroke. Garcia missed only five fairways. He holed three putts of 8ft or less, one of 15ft and one of 25ft.

Something tells me Seve is going to come back," Garcia said in a gesture of loyalty to his countryman. "He probably will not be the player he was, but I'm sure he's going to win some tournaments."

On this evidence, though, Ballesteros has no chance of regaining his best form. He was



Price, of Wales, plays from the 15th fairway as he moves to a share of the lead in Dubai

self only with a short game that remains magical, one of golf's wonders."

Never was this better dem onstrated than on the 11th, where he hit the wildest drive I have seen a professional hit. It landed plumb in the middle of the 12th fairway, more than 100 yards from the middle of

his intended target. Yet his sec-ond shot floated over an enormous waste bunker and some palm trees to within 8ft of the hole. Sadly, he missed the putt after being the farthest from the green after the drives and the nearest to the flag after his second.

All in all, it was not a very

FIRST-ROUND SCORES

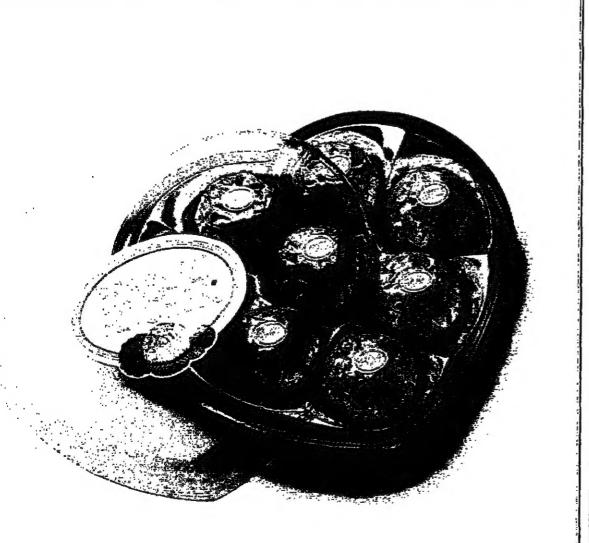
Gerest Britzin and Instand unises stated; 67: P Price, P McGinley 68: W Riley (Na; 8 Garcia (Sp), A Celha (Ser) 195: P Downie, W Bennett, D Howell, R May (US), J Sercian (Ser), S Trinning (Dert), J M Olazabal (Sp), P Afflect, F Cea (Sp), T Levet (Fr), B Lena. 70: C Montgomerie, A Wall, E Pomero (Arg.), J Spence, T Immeriem (SA), S Webster, S Struver (Ger), D Clarke, E Pryatt, R Russol, T Gógole (Ger), F Lindgren (Swe), P1: D Gillord, P Nyman (Swe), M Jordon (Swe), G Owen, D Robertson, M Moulend, S Michrel (US), Zhang Len-wei (China), A Coltart, M Campbell

(Den), M Rice, S Kjeldeson (Den), L Westwood, C Roccs (ti), V Philips, Chai Kyoungu S Kor), R Green (Aus), G Orr, R Mo-Farlene, J Hisepgreen (Swe), P-U Johanson (Swe), M O'Meara, B Ruenglet (The), S Pield, J Rwere (Sp.), P Heimington, G Evene 73: M Lanner (Swe), A Cabresa (Arg), M Pikington, M Mactierzice, C Whitelene (SA), M A Jiménez (Sp.), G Morquiet (US), P Beler, J Budeston, D Cooper, J Randhawe (India), P Broadhurt, P Fulley (Swe), R Karleson (Swe), M Jernes, I Garbud, P Haugsrud (Nor), J Pagnet 74; R Wessele (SA), J Lanses, D Smyth, J Mellor, P Spaland (Swe), S Handleson, R Gonzater (Am).

good day for former heroes. Nick Faldo had an inspired day on the greens, taking only 26 putts. This is just as well, because if he had been putting as badly as he was playing from tee to green, his total of 75, three over par, would have been much worse.

He is eight strokes behind Paul McGinley and Philip Price, the leaders, and has his work cut out to reach the last two rounds of this tournament, in which his aim is to finish in the top ten in order to climb up the world rankings.

LINES



VALENTINE'S DAY. SHOW YOUR HEART WITH SAILING

Gremlins leave luckless Hall defeated

BY EDWARD GORMAN SAILING CORRESPONDENT

WHEN Josh Hall set sail from Auckland in Gartmore Investment Management, he honed that his luck would turn after a disappointing first leg in the Around Alone Race and then an even worse second leg through the Southern Ocean. Instead, his campaign is effectively over after Gartmore was dismasted just four days into the third stage of the

Hall was lying in fourth and last place in Class 1, 120 miles behind Marc Thiercelin, in Somewhere, the leg lea-der, as the fleet headed south past the Chatham Islands and into the Southern Ocean at the start of the wild ride east towards Cape Horn. All appeared to be well until late on Wednesday, when the mast on Gartmore came crashing down in steep seas and at least 35 knots of wind.

Immediately before the dismasting, Hall, who is suffering from flu, had reported that his Groupe Finot 60 was travelling at between 15-20 knots in building seas and a 30-knot southwesterly. After the trials of the second leg. when Gartmore crash-gybed at the mercy of defective compasses, Hall was optimistic that he had got his boat on track - but it was not to be.

The failure of the rig on Gartmore may be the result of damage caused during repeated crashgybes on the second leg. Whatever the reason, the dismasting marks the end of a very disappointing race for Hall.

He completed the first leg two days off the pace but then, on the second leg, the problems came thick and fast. The rudder played up, there were problems with the mainsail and with the pilots and, by Auckland, Hall week behind the leader. His dismasting brings to an end British interest in Class 1 after Mike Golding ran aground in Team Group 4 while on his way into Auckland.

In Class 2, Mike Garside, in Magellan Alpha, is a long way behind the leader. JP Mouligne, of France in Cray Valley. Robin Davie, his British counterpart, in South Carolina, retired yesterday after reaching Auck-land two days after the other II skippers had set sail for Punte del Este.

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 46 HOMRAI

(c) A large black-and-white hornbill. Buceros bicornis, which is found from India to Sumatra. The Nepalese name. The homrai reaches its full size in four and [sic] five years. It is gregarious and sedate."

NASSA (c) The shell of a marine gastropod of the genus once so called, now included in the genus Nassarius. A basket shell. In Latin nassa means a basket fish-trap. The rough nassa. A very elegantly coronated spe-cies, with the spine rising into a sharp turret."

HAIKAL (b) The central chapel of three forming the sanctuary of a Coptic church. Also, attributively, in haikal screen, a screen, often elaborately carved or decorated, which separates the haikal from the body of the church. The Cootic word. "A church of the Coptic rite has a distinctive arrangement. Within the triple-domed sanctuary (haikal) are three altars. On the haikal-screen are a few pictures."

NOMIC (c) Something that pertains to or is concerned with a discoverable scientific or logical law. In Greek, nomos means a law. A term of philosophical and mathematical jargon. This nomological necessity of laws is generally called nomic neces-

SOLUTION TO WINNING MOVE

1. _ Bxg2+!; 2, Kxg2 Rg8+ and now White either gers mated or allows 3. Kf3 Qxd1+ when his queen goes.

Now this won't hurt a bit

Trust Me, I'm a Doctor BBC2, 8.00pm (not Northern Ireland)

It's difficult not to trust that nice GP (and writer/ comedian) Phil Hammond. His bedside manner is impeccable with the painful facts and fun when fun is called for. Tonight he returns with an extraordinary report on bowel cancer which suggests that your chance of complete recovery should you be so cursed — can vary by as much as 700% depending on your surgeon. The surgeons with the highest success rate use a method called TME — pioneered in Britain, a proven triumph in Sweden and Holland — yet only practiced here on a very limited scale. Why? Then there's a rundown on herbal remedies which really do work and a cure for dizziness which has to be seen to be believed. Fun? Well, apparently you can judge the intelligence of a man by his amount of body hair the more the better. "But Einstein had none at all," says our man with the stethoscope.

Days Like These

IIV. 8.30pm Take a dollop of The Young Ones, polish it with a dose of Friends, add a touch of Men Behaving Badly and bingo — a new sitcom is born. The two things which make this a bit different (apart from the fact that episode one can't hold a candle to any of the aforementioned) is that the six teenagers involved fell relating to decount line in ex. Later. of the aforementioned) is that the six teenagers involved (all relative unknowns) live in, cr. Luton and its 1976. So cue long hair, fiared jeans and of course 1970s music (though not enough of it). It's early days to pre-judge and it has to be said that the kids — at war with their parents, hankering after cars and sex etc — are really rather cleanliving and nice. The producer (John Bartlett) and the director (Bob Spiers) have dozens of solid hits to their carellit on hearth horizont. their credit, so here's hoping . . .

In tonight's final programme we watch the cycle of the seasons through the eyes of very young garden-ers (Spring: New Beginnings), the newly retired (Summer: Coming of Age), the elderly (Autumn: A Lifetime's Harvest) and the very old (Winter: Laid to Rest). Most moving are the Yorkshireman Peter Jackson, whose wife did all the gardening until she

Sunny Side Up A terrific cast has been assembled for this new six-

A terrific cast has been assembled for this new sixpart comedy series and the script, by Scott Cherry,
shows every sign in episode one of giving the cast
something to get their teeth into. Theirma Barlow,
Keith Barron, Clive Swift, Bryan Pringle, Kenneth
Cranham and David Ross play the leads in what is
essentially the story of the Glee Boys, the most
accomplished barber shop quartet in Nottingham.
Today's particular crisis concerns one of the
quartet wanting to leave: "I run a very demanding
business, I'm married to a woman who expects 12
holidays a year, I don't have time to mess around."
Worse yet, the defector seems to have more time Worse yet, the defector seems to have more time than he owns up to for he is planning to join a rival

RADIO 1 (BBC)

6.30mm Zoe Ball 9.00 Simon Meyo 12.00pm Kevin Greening 2.00 Mark Redcliffe 4.00 Chris Moyles 5.45 Newsbeat 6.00

RADIO 2 (BBC)

6.00cm Alex Lester 7.30 Wake Up to Wogen 9.30 Richard Alimeon 12.00pm Jimmy Young 2.00 Ed Stewart 5.05 Des Lynem 7.00 Morley at the Musicats (2/5) 7.30 Friday Night is Music Night 9.15 Frankenstein (5/5) 8.30 Listen to the Band 10.00 Devid Jacobe 11.00 Believe it or Not (3/4) 12.00cm Lynn Parsons 4.00 Less Sharms

RADIO 5 LIVE (BBC)

and Victoria Derbyshire 9.00 Nicky Campbell, Includes reports from the closing stages of the second final in the one-day triangular saries in Mathematica 12.00ees The Mathematica Includes Includes Included Includes Includes Included Includes Incl Annie Webster 1.00 Ruscoe and Co 4.00 Drive with Peter Allen and Jane Garvey 7.00 News Edta. Presented by Susen Bookbinder 7.30 Brien Moore's Sponsnight, Brien Moore and

TALK RADIO

6.00em Big Boys Breeklast 9.00 Scott Chisholm 1.00pm Anna Resburn 3.00 OKI to Talk 5.00 SportZone 8.00 Jackis Mason Live from New York 10.00 Dave Barrett 1.00em Mike Dickin

VIRGIN

6.30mm Chris Evans 9.30 Mark Forrest 1.00pm Nick Abbot 4.00 Harriet Scott 7.00 Wheels of Sleet 11.00 Janey Lee Grace

6.00am On Air with Petroc Trelawny, Includes a review of the world premiere of Nick Darke's new play, The Riot, at the National Theatre

9.00 Messerworks with Penny Gore, Includes Johann Strauss, son (Pizzicato Polica, with Josef Strauss; Thunder and Lightning Polica); Rachmaninov (Symphonic Dances); Granados (The Maiden and the Nightingale, Goyescas)

10.30 Artist of the Weels Leonard Statista

11.00 Sound Stories: Pive Femmes Fatales Peggy Reynolds tells the story of Josephine Beler

12.00pm Composer of the Weels: Telemann

1.00 The Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert Coull Quartet. Egar (String Quartet in E minor, Op 83); Beethoven (String Quartet in B that, Op 18 No 6) (r)

2.00 The BBC Orchestras BBC Symphony Orchestra under Dmitri Rasenico and Andreas Ligett, Stephen Kovacevich, Jeano, Wigner (Overture: Reinuff and Adelessa); Brahms (Piano Concerto No 1 in Dminor); Shostakovich (Symphony No 5)

4.00 Music Macchine with Verity Sharp

5.00 In Tame with Sean Rafferty

7.30 Performance on 3 Chris Wines Introduces a concert given last night at St George; Brandon Hill, Bristol, Soohie Denemen, soneran Orchestre

concert given fast night at St George's, Brandon Hill, Bristol. Sophie Daneman, soprano, Orchest

of the Age of Enlighterment, under Monica
Huggett, violin. Leclair (Violin Concerto in A, Op 7
No 6); Charpentier (Le Malade Imaginaire);
Clerentbaut (Cantais: Le Solett, Valinqueir des
Nuages); Rameau (Suite: Dardenus)

9.20 Postscript: Magarum at the Millennihum Gill
Pyrah considers Magnum's work as art (5/5) (f)

9.45 Hanne Elster Holderfin settings composed in
Hollywood in 1943, sung by Wolfgerg Holzmair,
baritone, with Peter Stamm, plano

10.00 Hear and Now Verity Sharp Introduces Darkness
Visible, a concert showcasing the music of Simon
Holt, Morton Feldman and Elitott Carter

11.30 Jazz Century (Sounding the Century) (r)
12.00am Composer of the Weelc Lisut (r)
1.00 Through the Might with Donald Macked. 1.00
Liszt (The Legend of St Elisabeth). Henrietta
Lednarova, soprano, Hane Stoffove-Bandova,
mezzo, Czech Philitamonic Chorus and
Orchestra under Aldo Ceccalo 3.05 Boccherini
(Guitar Culntet in C, G453, La Ritirata di Macked)
3.35 Haydn (Symphony No 44 in E minor, Trauer)
4.10 Szymanowski (String Quartet No 2, Op 56
4.50 Gabrieti (Ficercar del Primo Tono) 5.00
Mozart (Divertimento in D, K136) 5.40 Strauss
(Hom Concerto No 1)

5.35cm Shipping Forecast 5.40 inshore Forecast 5.45 Prayer for the Day 5.47 Farming Today 5.00 Today with John Humpinys and Sue MacGregor. 8.35 (LW) Yesterday in Parliament Round-up of

developments

8.00 Desert Island Discs The Hungarian planist
Anclas Schill is Sue Lawley's Castaway (f)

8.45 (FM) Serial: The Tulip Arra Pavord reads the
final part of her history of the popular flows (f)

9.45 (LW) An Act of Worship

10.00 Worsen's Hour with Jami Nurray

11.00 Sersentian The trimes Series Township et law

9.45 (LW) An Act of Worship
10.00 Women's Hour with Jerni Murray
11.00 Women's Hour with Jerni Murray
11.00 Serenading The planist Serion Townley attempts to find the truth behind the image of a lover
11.30 Suriny Side Up by Scott Cherry. A barbershop quartet struggles to survive without a key member. Staming Ketih Barron, Bryan Pringle and Clive Swift. See Choice (1/6)
12.00pm (FM) News 12.04 You and Yours
12.00 (LW) News Headlines; Shipping Forecast
1.00 The World at One with Nick Clarke
1.30 Pruzzle Panel Chris Maslanka presents riddles and brain-teasers
2.00 The Archers Yesterday's edition (r)
2.15 Afternoon Play: Larkrise and Beyond First part of Flora Thompson's evocation of late 19th-century country life. With Maggie Steed, Leti Rose and Adjoa Andoh
3.00 Changing Places New series Howard Stableford Investigates land reclamation schemes designed to benefit local communities in Doncaster and Nelson (1/5)

Nelson (1/5) 3.30 Going, Going, Gone (5/5) 3.45 This Sceptred Isle Part 30 of the history of

British, narreted by Anna Massey
4.00 Bookelub James Naughtie and his guests
discuss John le Carre's Cold War spy trilogy (r)
4.40 The Message Alex Brodie and his guests discus
current media trends

5.00 PM with Chris Lowe and Eddie Meir
6.00 Str. O'Clock News
6.30 The Ghost of Number Ten Political farce, by
Steve Nation and Turan Ali. New Labour's
selection committees get a lesson in diversity from
Charles Darwin. Starting Maggie Steed and Mark
Williams. Last in series (6/6)
7.00 The Archers Heyley's independence day
7.15 Front Row Mark Lawson presents the nightly arts
programme

7.00 The Archere Heyley's independence day
7.15 Front Row Mark Lawson presents the nightly arts
programme
7.45 Speaking for Themselves: The Personal
Letters of Winston and Clementine Churchill
Broadcast earlier as part of Woman's Hour
8.00 Amy Queetions? Panellists including Margaret
Beckett MP, Anthony Howard of The Times and
Malcolm Bruce, Liberal Democrat Treasury
spokesman, respond to queetions from an
audience in Alireton, Derbyshire
8.45 Letter from America with Alistair Cooke
9.00 The Fridary Play: One Young Man Fact-based
drama by Jeremy Weller, about a remand
prisoner's death in Saughton Prison in 1993, and
relatives' struggle to uncover what really
happened. Performed by actors and members of
the tamily, and followed by a discussion of the
lasues raised, chaired by Edi Stark
10.00 The World Tonight Robin Lusting presents
10.45 Book at Bedtime: Mark Twaln Stories Kelsey
Grammer reads Camibalism in the Cars
11.00 Late Night on 4: Late Tacke Eleanor Oldroyd
and guests talk about the week's sporting events
11.30 (FM) Today in Parliament
11.30 (FM) Today in Parliament
11.30 (FM) Troday in Parliament
11.31 (FM) Today in Parliament
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FRECKENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. PM 97.6-93.8. RADIO 2. PM 98.0-90.2. RADIO 3. FM 90.2-92.4. RADIO 4. FM 92.4-94.8; LW 198; MW 720. RADIO 5 LIVE. MW 693, 909. WORLD SERVICE. MW 649; LW 198 (12.45-5.55em). CLASSIC FM, FM 100-102. VIRIGIN RADIO, FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. TALK RADIO, MW 1083, 1089.



Rosie Marcel and Max Wrottesley star in Days Like These (ITV, 8.30pm)

2 31 KG-

died - and, at her request, was buried there. "I il died — and, at ner request, was turned there. It join her when my time comes. And then there's the resting actor. John Tordoff who, missing the stage, has virtually transformed his water garden into a Victorian set. Says 93-year old gardener Lady Daphne Heald: "There's an oak tree in my says related by monks in 1400. It's garden which was planted by monks in 1400. It's still blooming and must be seen used all of us to plant for the joys of planting the complete as well as for the joys of planting for ourselves." A perfect programme.

Britains Worst . . . Drivers

TTV, 9.00pm

As if we haven't had enough motoring horror stories along comes this one for the Britain's Warst... series. It's still being edited as we go to a press but I can give you a taste from the publicity. Hear the incredible tale of a Sheffield resident who cheated death when a Metro driven by a teenwho cheated death when a Metro driven by a teenage joy-rider careered through his front window..." ... meet the arthritic, alchoholic great grandfather who terrorises residents in Great Yarmouth with his electric invalid buggy..." (Apparently magistrates are powerless to ban him because, as the law stands, his £2,500, 24-volt buggy doesn't have to be licensed). And then there's "Britain's most banned motorist, Eddie Flahive, who has been convicted of almost 150 motoring offences, 67 for driving while dis-150 motoring offences, 67 for driving while dis-qualified. Elizabeth Cowley

RADIO CHOICE

Front Page Sport

This series about the long history of sports migra-tion from the back pages to those at the front is proving to be a useful social, as well as sporting, history. Tonight's programme is a good example for Rob Bonnet takes us back to the turbulent lane 1960s when upheaval was all around and sporting figures were inevitably dragged into wider issues. None more so than Mohammed Ali, whose refusal to fight in the Vietnam war was conveyed in the fateful words. "I aim't got no quarrel with those Viet Cong." That cost Ali his world heavyweight title and be was banned from the ring for three and a half years, during which time American opinion shifted so firmly against the Vietnam war that Ali moved from villain to hero. Peter Barnard

BBC WORLD SERVICE

S.DOeus The World Today 7.00 World News 7.15 Outlook 7.55 My Century 8.00 World News 8.05 Westway 8.20 Off the Sheft My Century 8.30 World News 8.05 Westway 8.20 Off the Shelf:
Boyhood 8.36 Science in Action 9.00 World News 9.05 The Art
of Therelating 8.20 John Peel 9.50 Sports Round-Up 10.00
Newsdesk 10.30 British Today 10.45 On Your Behalf 11.00
Newsdesk 11.30 Focus on Faith 12.00pm World News 12.05
Outlook 12.45 Sports Round-Up 1.00 Newshour 2.00 World
News 2.05 Science in Action 2.30 Best on Record 3.00 World
News 3.05 Footbell Edra 3.15 Performance 3.30 The Vintage
Chart Show 4.00 World News 4.15 Insight 4.30 Multitrack
Alson adve 5.00 Europe Today 5.30 World Business Report
5.45 Sports Round-Up 6.00 World News 6.18 Britein Today
6.30 Focus on Faith 7.00 World News 7.05 Spience in Action
7.30 On Your Behalf 7.45 Off the Shelf: Boyhood 8.00
Newshour 9.00 World News-9.05 World, Business Report 9.20
Britain Today 9.30 Best on Record 10.00 World News 10.15
Sports Round-Up 10.30 Multitrack Alternative 11.00 World
News 11.06 Outlook 11.45 Insight 1.200es The World Today News 11.06 Outlook 11.45 Insight 12.00 am The World Today 12.30 Science in Action 12.55 My Century 1.00 The World Today 1.30 Meridian Books 2.00 The World Today 2.30 People and Politics 3.00 The World Today 3.20 Sports Round-Up 3.30

CLASSIC FM

6.00em Nick Balley's Easier Breakfast, Music to get the day off to a fine start 8.00 Henry Kelly. The Hell of Farne Hour. Pus, tanounte pieces voted for in the Classic FM Top 300 12.00pm Lunchtime Requests, Jane Jones plays tanounte music 2.00 Lunchtime Requests. Jane Jones plays taxouritis music 2.00 concerto. Strauss (Horn Concerto No 1 in E list mejor) 3,00 Jane Markham. Continuous Classics, plus aport updates and travel news 6,30 Newsnight. Top stories and interviews with quests from the arts world 7,00 Smooth Classics at Seven. John Brunning introduces classic councils 9,00 Evening Concert. Geratiwin (Phapsody in Blue); William Levi Dawson (Negro Foft Symphony); Hanson (Symphony No 2) 11,00 Mappin at Night. Music and conversation with Alan Mann 2,00era Concerto. Strauss (Horn Concerto No 1 in E flet mejor) (r) 3,00 Mark Griffiths. The Early Breeldast Show

Selective culling is the order of the night

eaders who drove through the Regent's Park area of London a few years ago may remember a sign which sat in eaders who drove through a window on a corner near the Marylebone Road for the best part of a decade. It was a mock triangular warning sign containing a silhouette of a rhinoceros and the caption "Stop Killing Rhinos Now!"

We imagined startled drivers guiltily putting down their spears and rifles, having been caught in the act, and wondered what vigilant campaigner had realised that people were secretly slaughtering pachyderms on the street outside.

It was, of course, a valid and serious point. It is scandalous that these strangely magnificent beasts could become extinct because human beings have deluded themselves into believing that their horns are a kind of organic Viagra. But it does raise the question of when, if ever, the notice night need to be changed to

"Resume Killing Rhinos Now!" Elephants or Ivory! (BBC2), last night's edition of Horizon. addressed precisely that question, but in relation to elephants. Adrian Pennink's powerful but wavering film retraced the history of these creatures near extinction. We saw the carnage left by poachers, the government hoards of confiscated tusks, and we talked to

Richard Leakey, the white Kenyan

minister who led the international

campaign to ban the sale of ivory. We also learnt a lot about the social complexity of elephant life, how surprisingly like us they are in some respects, except that they do not, to my knowledge, pay up to \$27,000 to shoot a human. The problem is that in some countries, notably Zimbabwe, they have now over-reproduced. They can destroy entire crops and will kill farmers who try to scare them away. Worse, they are destroying whole woodland eco-systems by over-

grazing, leading to calls for elephant contraceptives (not that kind, silly) and selective culls.

Perhaps the solution is for an animal behaviourist to train the elephants to be more ecologically minded and responsible about crop damage. Barking Mad (BBC1) is yet another programme about pets and/or wild animals behaving like human beings. These programmes, which breed like elephants and are devastating huge areas of the schedules, are in urgent need of selective culling.

espite the wacky title and jaunty music, this was really "Animal Psychiatric Hospital" or "Pet Shrinks in Practice". We met, among others, a collie who bit his owner if she tried to open the living-room window, a horse with horse-boxophobia and a savage rabbit. Their afflictions were all cured by a succession of animal trainers, New Payer



Paul Hoggart

therapists and "behaviourists". who dealt with the problems by analysing them in relation to the animals' nature in the wild. Rabbits in confined spaces do become vicious (my nephew has a missing finger tip to prove it). This one just needed more space to bounce about, and once she got it she quickly became soft and cuddly. Zack, the collie, had been "pro-

moted" above his station in the

family, apparently, and thought he could control his mistress. This was rectified by a programme of humiliations like sleeping in the kitchen and not on her bed.

It occurred to me that these tactics might work wonders with antisocial humans. Duchess the Newfoundland puppy, for instance, is a compulsive show-off, who spends hours galivanting in the river at the bottom of her garden. But when the family simply ignored her antics, she stopped. I feel sure this strategy could work with Chris Evans or Johnnie Vaughan. And perhaps a few nights on the kitchen floor would have saved Glenn Hoddle's job.

The latest series of The Travel Show (BBC2) signed off last night with some exotic suggestions for those of us who are wondering what to do next December 31.

Complete with obligatory hard hat, Juliet Morris anchored the programme from the obligatory

Millennium Dome. Tickets for the show will be available from selected agencies at £35 a head for the day, only £15 over the official price.

of thing, cruise ships are irredeemably naff.

"It's heaving in here, isn't it?" said Morris when she duly arrived day, only £15 over the official price. This is a snip compared with a trip into space which will cost you £45,000, with a £4,000 deposit payable in advance. She told us that 336 million bottles of champagne are expected to be drunk - a curiously precise figure. Who on earth calculates these things and how?

T ew York and the carefully pronounced Phuket were considered. Or you can go to Australia on a house swap if you can find a couple, like last night's pair, gullible enough to come to Worthing in the drizzle.

Juliet Morris herself sampled a Mediterranean cruise. There is an elemental law of nature, expressed in the equation "journalist + cruise ship amused sarcasm". This is because, however pleasurable they may be for those that like that kind

to find that the aerobics class consisted of herself and three others. The line-dancing was a bit busier, though not much, despite the 1,200 passenger capacity of the Melody. This is because everyone is too busy working on their weight-gain programme, which averages one pound per day per passenger. I believe some cruise lines provide

Personal Fatness Instructors. To be perfectly honest, I will not be sorry to get off this ship," she concluded with perfect honesty. Several lines are offering millennium cruises on the Atlantic. I crossed on the QE2 in late autumn a few years ago, and a stiff blow was enough to cause one man's complementary banana to fly from his fruit-bowl and splash down in his loo. So be warned. It might really be heaving in there.

BBC1

6.00em Business Breakfast (87638) 7.00 Breakfast News (T) (23367) 9.00 Kilroy (1) (8058589)

9.45 The Vanessa Show (1) (4457164) 10.55 News; Weather (1) (6529928) 11.00 Real Rooms (6539305) 11.25 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (T) (6509164) 11.55 News: Weather (T) (1782251) 12.00pm Call My Bluff (27034)

...2.30 Wipeout (4964693) 2.55 The Weather Show (1) (48255015) Ham: 1.00 One O'Clock News (T) (26454) ISE:1.30 Regional News; Weather (47977183) 1.40 Neighbours (1) (25863638)

2.05 Ironside A mysterious glrl stands accused of murder (r) (3910299) 2.55 Body Spies Young mums get back in shape (5264589) 25 Children's BBC: Playdays (6187218)

3.45 Spider (2040522) 3.50 Smart on the Road (3105522) 4.05 Rugrats (6269218) 4.30 L & K Friday (5943812) 4.55 Newsround Extra (1483657) 5.10 Blue 5.35 Neighbours Anne decides to get assertive (r) (T) (120522)

6.00 Six O'Clock News; Weather (T) (299) 6.30 Regional News Magazine (251) 7.00 Celebrity Ready, Steady, Cook The former jockey Willia Carson and the wine buff Oz Clarke team up with Ainsley Harriott and Lesley Waters in the culinary race against the clock (T) (3676)

7.30 Top of the Pops Jamle Theakston introduces Blondie; M People; Mansun; Mirrorball and Soulsearcher (T) (763) 8.00 Ground Force New series of the popular

gardening challenge. Alan Titchmarsh, Charlie Dimmock and Tommy Walsh create a garden water feature to make submariner Rob Smith feel at home when he berths at Saltash (1/8) (T) (9096) 8.30 Birds of a Feather The Chigwell Two prepare to be released (r) (T) (1831)

9.00 Nine O'Clock News; Regional News; ather (T) (6367) 9.30 Parkinson With guests Julie Walters and Dame Thora Hird (T) (813980)



Colorial drama starring Charles Dance and Greta Scacchi (10.25pm)

and Joss Advand, Directed by Michael

12.10am The Stand-Up Show With Jocelyn Jee. Last in senes (6981684) Church of Eivis (r) (T) (5553023)

1.10 Staughter of the Innocents (1993)
Thriller, starning Scott Glenn as a dedicated FBI agent who enlists his son's

2.45 Weather (4267226) 2.50 BBC News 24 (13474665)

10.25 White Mischief (1987) True-life tale of adultery and murder among British colonial aristocratis in 1940s Kenya. Radford (T) (209589)

12,40 The Big End A transatiantic trip to the

help to find a vicious serial killer. Directed by James Glickenhaus (T) (247771)

7.00am Children's BBC Breakfast Show: Hairy Jeremy (3215638) 7.05 Teleaubbies (6126980) 7.30 Snorks (6912947) 7.55 Short Change (2825170) 8.18 Rewind (9155473) 8.20 Taz-Mania (7004928) 8.40 Polka Dot Shorts (3083676) 8.50 Johnson (3072560) 9.00 Storytime (8085003) 9.10 See You, See Me (4803473) 9.30 Numbertime (1995218) 9.45 Come Outside (1983473) 10.00 Teletubbles (10305) 10.30 Megameths (7942034) 10.50 Look and Read (7922270) 11.10 Landmarks (1866837) 11.30 English File (8102) 12.00pm Scene (25676) 12.30 Working Lunch

(27522) 1.00 Johnson (94238305) 1.10 The Travel Hour A guide to the wine-growing region of Burgundy (r) (9992367) 2.10 Live Snooker: Benson and Hedges Masters Dougle Donnelly introduces the second day of quarter-final action from

Wernbley Conference Centre (40696657) 5.10 International Cricket Action from Australia v England in the triangular tournament final (6555299) 6.00 The Simpsons (r) (T) (266386) 6.25 Robot Wars (1) (274305)

6.55 Live Snooker: Benson and Hedges Masters The start of the last quarter-final at Wembley (366034) 7.30 Country House Lady Tavistock puts the Marquess on a diet, white one of the Woburn Abbey tarms falls victim to an audacious robbery (T) (305)



Donna Bernard and Phil Hammond return with medical insights (8pm)

8.00 **CHOICE** Trust Me, I'm a Doctor New series of the insider's guide to the medical world (T) (7638)

8.30 CHOICE Garden Stories A Yorkshire widower tends his wife's resting place (T) (9473) 9.00 Gimme, Gimme, Gimme Linda makes a

stand for the women scomed by appearing on a chat show as an injured party. Last in series (T) (4909) 9.30 Never Mind the Buzzcocks New series Kathy Burke, Simon Le Bon, lan Dury and Karen Poole join Sean Hughes and Phill Jupitus in the irreverent music quiz, hosted by Mark Lamarr (T) (47386)

10.00 The Young Ones The boys appear on University Challenge (r) (T) (26305) 10.30 Newsnight (T) (862676) 11.15 Snooker: Benson and Hedges

Masters Highlights of day six (906744) 11.55 Ski Sunday Special Championship highlights (967980) 12.45am Later with Jools Holland With Spiritualized (r) (509955)

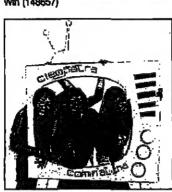
hitch-hiker finds himself accused of murder when a blackmailer is killed. Thriller, starring William Sylvester. Directed by Maunice Elvey (T) (3823961) 2.55 Weather (4254752)

3.00 BBC Learning Zone: GCSE Revision: Science 2 - Biology (34085) 5.00 Close

5.30am ITN Morning News (30218) 6.00 GMTV (1769170) 9.25 Trisha (T) (5418015) 10.30 This Morning (T) (11515522) 12.15pm HTV News (T) (7184251) 12.30 ITN Lunchtime News (T) (54676) 12.59 HTV Crimestoppers (48240183) 1.00 WEST: Shortland Street (11522)

1.00 WALES: Wish You Were Here? Includes visits to Dubai, Nice, Cumbria, and the Orient Express (f) (T) (11522) 1.30 Home and Away (T) (53947) 2.00 The Jerry Springer Show (T) (5836454) 2.45 Supermarket Sweep (T) (515270) 3.15 ITN News Headlinas (T) (8054396)

3.20 HTV News (T) (1204819) 3.25 CTTV: Mopatop's Shop (2454152) 3.35 Timbuctoo (2079034) 3.40 Animat Stories (2067299) 3.50 Adam's Family Tree (5865454) 4.15 Gladiators: Train 2



Pop sensation Cleopatra continue their comedy drama (4.45pm)

4.45 Comin' Atcha The pop group Cleopatra star in their own series (5966763)

- Sountry Practice (an discovers an endangered species (9274183) 5.40 ITN Early Evening News (1) (751541)

6.00 Home and Away Vinnie is walking on air (f) (T) (253812) 6.25 WALES: Wales Tonight (T) (963676) 6.25 WEST: HTV W 6.30 WEST: The West Tonight (T) (947)

7.00 Bruce Forsyth's Play Your Cards Right Game show (4/16) (T) (8744) 7.30 Coronation Street Sally suffers a

8.00 Airline An unruly stag party disrupts proceedings at Luton (6/8) (7) (4164) 8.30 CHOICE Days Like These New cornedy senes inspired by US sitcom That 70s Show (1/13) (T) (3299)

9.00 CHRICE Britain's Worst Drivers True-life accounts of madness and mayhem on the roads (T) (2299) 10.00 News at Ten; Weather (1) (13831) 10.30 HTV News and Weather (1) (145541)

10.45 WEST: Videotech The nominations for 10.45 WALES: Weish Agenda Debate Alun Michael v Rhodri Morgan (400909) 11.15 Bob Monkhouse on Campus Bob fires gags at the Oxford Union (T) (638980)

12.15am Soundtrax (6197348) 12.30 Pirate TV (12/13) (46961) 1.00 Psycho IV: The Beginning (TVM 1990) Norman Bates' participation in a radio debate on matricide spurs him to resume his reign of terror. Starring Anthony Perkins and Olivia Hussey. Directed by

2.40 The Haunted Fishtank irreverent TV review with Ed Hall (r) (8847482) 3.10 Baywatch (r) (T) (3050226) 4.00 Trisha Shown earlier (r) (1) (48288) 5.00 Coronation Street (r) (T) (72435)

Mike Garris (T) (239232)

CENTRAL As HTV West except: 12.20pm-12.30 Central News; Weather (T) (8583183) 1.00 Wish You Were Here? (r) (T) (11522) 1.30 The Jerry Springer Show (T) (1887744) 2.15-2.45 Home and Away (T) (523299) 3.20-3.25 Central News (T) (1204819) 5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (9274183) 6.25-7.00 Central News; Weather (T) (963676) 10.30-10.40 Central News; Weather (T) (963676) 10.30-10.40 Central News; Weather (T) (9636576) 10.30-10.40 FILM: Caddyshack II (94979638) 12.40am FILM: Indecency (294313) 2.20 Box Office America (1110232) 2.45 SeeQuest 2032 (f) (T) (3669771) 3.35 The Haunted Fishtank (f) As HTV West except: 12.20pm-12.30 Central (3669771) 3.35 The Haunted Fishtank (f) (40129771) 4.05 Central Jobfinder '99 (f) (6181110) 5.20-5.30 Asian Eye (7329684)

As HTV West except: 12.15pm-12.27 News (T) (7/184251) 1.00 Westcountry Update (11522) 1.30 Jerry Springer (T) (1687744) 2.15-2.45 Home and Away (T) (523299) 3.20-3.25 Westcountry News; Weather (T) (1204819) 5.08 Birthday People (5376909) 5.10-5.40 Home and Away (T) (3274183) 5.00-7.00 Westcountry Live (T) (39367) 10.30-10.45 News (T) (145541) 10.45 The Other Side (2/5) (400309) 11.15 Renegate (174639) 12.10am (400909) 11.15 Renegade (174639) 12.10am Tales from the Darkside (7265684) 1.05-2.40 FILM: Overexposed (242226)

As HTV West except: 12.15pm-12.30 Meridian News; Weether (7184251) 5.10-5.40 Home ...d Away (1) (9274183) 6.00-7.00 Meridian Tonight (1) (39367) 10.30 Meridian News; Weather (1) (145541) 10.45 Dream Town (3/5) (400909) 11.15 Crowded House: Farewell to the World Concert (638980) 12.15am-12.30 Sound Bites (6197348)

Watch (8502218) 12.20-12.30 Anglia News and Weather (8583183) 5.10-5.40 Home and and weather (6983183) 5.10-5.40 Home and Away (T) (9274183) 5.59 Anglia Weather (T) (904034) 6.00 Anglie News (T) (367) 6.30-7.00 Off the Beaten Track (3/10) (T) (947) 10.29 Anglia Air Watch (275473) 10.30 Anglia News and Weather (T) (161589) 10.40-12.30

As HTV West except 12.19pm Anglia Air

Starts: 5.55am Sesame Street (r) (10145201) 7.00 The Big Breakfast (34182676) 9.00 Ysgolion: Off Limits (83143541) 9.25 Schools at Work (43489560) 9.30 Eureka (94200947) 9.45 Stop, Look, Listen (94298102) 10.00 The Complete Cosmos (65785541) 10.10 TVM (20626744) 10.25 latin ar Daith (20605251) 10.45 Enter the Maths Zone (83838367) 10.45 Errer the Mains 20ne (8333337) 11.00 The Technology Programme (95550812) 11.15 Pa Newydd? (95573763) 11.30 Powerhouse (1) (40664657) 12.00pm Home Improvement (1) (29574270) 12.30 Sesame Street (1) (38129657) 1.00 Planed Sesame Street (1) (38129657) 1.00 Planed Plant (1) (34185763) 1.30 Earthscape (1) (27709541) 1.50 FILM: Danger Within (1) (23901611) 3.30 Collectors' Lot (1) (81017541) 4.00 Fifteen-to-One (1) (81036676) 4.30 Dishes (7) (81025560) 5.00 Planed Plant (64506251) 5.30 Countdown (1) (81016812) 6.00 Newyddion 6 (1) (54328034) 6.10 Heno (1) (16294541) 7.00 Pobol y Cwm

(T) (64526015) 7.30 Newyddion (T) (84536763) 8.00 Cefn Gwlad (T) (64535763) 8.30 Y Clwb Rygbl (T) (64514270) 9.00 Pawb a'i Fam (78313693) 10.00 Brookside (T) (60216960) 10.35 Frasier (T) (56630218) 11.05 (0021680) 1035 Frester (1) (00030216) 11.05 So Graham Norton (1) (47879386) 11.45 TFI Friday (32368657) 12.50am Streetmate (1) (26328706) 1.20 4 Later; The RuPaul Show (20231232) 1.50 Late Toon: Fishing for Love (21693503) 2.00 The Mod Squad (70616023) 3.00 Vids (53146232) 3.35 FR.M. And Then Them Marc Nord (27041278 5 05 Plandd

CHANNEL 4

5.40em Pink Parither (9050638) 5.50 The Magic Roundabout (8941893) 5.55 Sesame Street (3699015)

7.00 The Big Breakfast (49305) 9.00 Schools: Off Limits (4859541) 9.25 Schools at Work (6181102) 9.30 Eureka (1980386) 9.45 Stop, Look, Listen (1978541) 10.00 The Complete Cosmos (6414251) 10.10 TVM (9138034) 10.25 Ulster Unearthed (9117541) 10.45 Enter the Maths Zone (2903218) 11.00 The Technology Programme (8253251) 11.15 Stage One (8276102)

11.30 Powerhouse (1) (3270) 12.00pm Sesame Street (1) (10744) 12.30 Bewitched (r) (1) (52218) 1.00 Pet Rescue (T) (19164)

1.30 The Ocean World of John Stonemar (1) (25850164) 1.55 Earthscape Australian birds (31192164) 2.00 Background to Danger (1943) Wartime drama, starring George Raft as an American agent sent into Turkey. Directed by Raoul Walsh (T) (74299)

3.30 Collectors' Lot (1) (725) 4.00 Fifteen-to-One (T) (560) 4.30 Countdown (1) (5936522) 4.55 Ricki Lake (T) (3590725)

5.30 Pet Rescue A homeless dog (T) (116) 6.00 TFI Friday Chris Evans is joined by Martin Kemp and Ray Winstone. Plus music by Baby Bird (37909)

7.00 Channel 4 News; Weather (T) (338251) 7.55 The Millennial Miniatures (T) (252763) 8.00 The Lost Gardens of Heligan Tim Smit and John Willis complete the restoration of the Lost Valley (6/6) (r) (T) (5034) 8.30 Brookside (T) (4541)

9.00 Friends Rachel is dismayed to learn that her trailan boyfriend has been trying it on with Phoebe (r) (T) (2305)



9.30 Boyz Unlimited The band record their first single at Abbey Road studios — in Chelmsford (2/6) (T) (32454) 10.00 Frasier The strink believes he has ar

admirer (T) (11473) 10.30 So Graham Norton (833164) 11.10 King of the Hill Peggy enters a beauty

contest (T) (513928) 11.40 TFI Friday With Martin Kemp and Ken Horn. Shown earlier (r) (820560) 12.45am 4 Later: The RuPaul Show (43936) 1.15 Late Toon: Fishing for Love (6066058) 1.25 The Mod Squad (8312400) 2.25 Vids Officeat video review (r) (3678665) 3.00 And Then There Were None (1966) Ten strangers with dark pasts are summoned to a mysterious Austrian

hideaway to meet their gristy fate, Directed by George Pollock (90690) 4.30 Music Hath Charms (1935) A dance band's radio broadcast has bizzure effects on those tuning in around the world. Cornedy, starring Carol Goodner. Directed by Thomas Bentley (8126139)

CHANNEL 5

6.00am 5 News and Sport (6532522) 7.00 WideWorld (r) (T) (6907763) 7.30 Millicshakel (6741837) 7.35 Wimzie's House (1) (3169589)

8.00 Havakazoo (r) (4935763) 8.30 Dappledown Farm (r) (4934034) 9.00 Mixing it (r) (T) (4925386) 9.30 The Oprah Winfrey Show (6005725) 10.20 Sunset Beach (T) (1012218)

11.10 Leeza (4414541) 12.00pm 5 News at Noon (T) (4905522) 12.30 Family Affairs Claire gets a shock (r) (T); 5 News Update (9957096)

1.00 The Bold and the Beautiful Grant and Brooke are caught kissing (T) (6906034) 1.30 The Roseanne Show (9956367) 2.00 100 Per Cent Gold (5102096)

2.30 Good Afternoon Daily entertainment; 5 News Update (1755676)

3.30 Earth Angel (TVM 1990) The ghost of the former 1960s prom queen returns to the land of the living to sort out her old the living to sort out her old classmates' romantic problems. Staming Cathy Podewell and Roddy McDowali, Directed by Joe Napolitano (9749638)

5.20 Sunset Beach Shown earlier (r) (T); 5 News Update (1495819) 6.00 100 Per Cent Cuiz (6352541) 6.30 Family Affairs Clive regrets his passionate outburst (T) (6343893)

7.00 5 News; Weather (T) (5106812) 7.30 Malaysian Jungle The role of the Asian elephant in the life of the Malaysian jungle (T); 5 News Update (6372305)

8.00 Was it Good for You? Two sisters and two Leeds brothers with their families Algarye (6/14) (5115560) 8.30 Pig at the Ritz? Jemima Parry Jones of

the National Birds of Prey Centre accepts a challenge to take "Grunty" the pig out to tea at the Ritz (5101367) 9.00 Victim of Love (TVM 1990) A successful psychiatrist meets a seemingly charming widower, little realising

he's harbouring a dark secret about the death of his last wife. Tense, erotic thriller, starring Pierce Brosnan, JoBeth Williams and Virginia Madsen. Directed by Jerry London (T): 5 News Update (44423812) 10.40 Poltergelst: The Legacy Nick and Rachel are captured by a manic preacher whose flock only see the light of day

every 50 years (r) (T) (6938980) 11.40 Irresistible Impulse (TVM 1995) Erotic thriter about a secretary who sets out to prove a shady real estate agent had a hand in her wealthy employer's mysterious death. Doug Jeffrey stars. Directed by Jag Munchra (18287589)

1.45am Dark Secrets (TVM 1995) sculptor's career making plaster casts of dead enimals begins to get out of hand during attempts to impress a girl. With Anthony Michael Hall. Directed by Michael James McDonald (1105428)

3.25 Stagecoach to Dancers' Rock (1962) Premiere. A group of weary travellers are left stranded in the wilderness by a stagecoach driver who's convinced that one of them has smallpox. Western drama, starring Martin Landau. Directed by Earl Bellamy (27006961)

4.40 Prisoner: Cell Block H (1004/95) 5.30 100 Per Cent (r) (9824752)

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PAY TV: SATELLITE, CABLE AND DIGITAL

• For further listings see Saturday's Vision

SKY ONE 7.00am Count Ductola (69183) 7.30 The Class Evans Broaklast Show (22454) 8.30 Hollywood Squares (32980) 9.00 Sally Jossy Raphael (75305) 10.00 The Oprah Josep Raphael (7305) 10,00 The Oprah Whitely Shore (77102) 11,00 Guilty (6458) 12,00 pm Jerny Jones (80015) 1,00 Mad About You (68454) 1,30 Jeopardy (6025) 2,00 Sally Jessy Raphael (22164) 3,00 Jerny Jones (95473) 4,00 Guilty (74880) 5,00 Star Trek Vovager (4947) 6,00 Guilty (8251) 8,30 Friends (2831) 7,00 The Simpsons (5576) 7,30 The Simpsons :001 Allatter: A1325.2 (12639) 10,00 Cope: 1947;25| 10,30 Cops (53473) 11,00 Frends (82909) 11,30 Star Trek, Voyager (47744) 12,30am The Comm sh (33665) 1,30 Long

SKY BOX OFFICE Sky's pay-per-view movie channels. To view any film telephone 0990 8008 SKY BOX OFFICE 1 (Transponder 26) Fools Rush in (1997) SKY BOX OFFICE 3 (Transponder 59) Pana (1996) Roosie Nights (1997)

FILMFOUR 6.90pm Shot Aftonion Span Carema (8444522) 8.00 Milami Rhappody (1995) (66494386) 9.40 Curreni Aftar (2483305) 10.00 Singles (1992) (2113589) 11.40 The

Tudo Sangias (1982) (211909) 11.40 mg Rung (8082) 831 12.00 mm Patit Rocks (1988) (8437329) 1.30 Wish You Were Here (1987) (5675) 101 3.00 Don Juan De Wardo (1985) (189400) 4.35 Joyanniaqatsi (1983) (8888232) 6.00 *Close

SKY PREMIER SR1 PHEISMEN
6.00am House Caliz (1978) (84251) 8.00
Courting Justice (1995) (44365) 10.00
Cocom (1995) (70838) 12.00pm House
Calls (1978) (34909) 2.00 Courting
Justice (1995) (37947) 4.00 Cocoom
(1995) (7993) 6.00 Lock Who's Talking
(1986) (17183) 8.00 The Fifth Element
(1997) (64583357) 10.05 William
Shpkespeery's Rotoco and Jutlet (1996)

SKY MOVIEMAX 5.30en Desperate (1947) (35631) 7.00 The Last Best Year (TVM 1990) (83763) 9.00 Vegas Vacetion (1997) (26987) 11.00 The Associate (1995) (71544) 1.00pm The Last Best Year (TVM 1990) (37066) 3.00 Race the Sun (1995) (41560) 5.00 Vegas Vacetion (1997) (39657) 7.00 P-Bayery (7724) 7.30 UK Top 10 (3183) 8.00 Action Herries: Nicolas Case (6164) 8.00 Action Heroes: Nacious Cage (6164) 8.30 Mayor Magic: Machanical Mone Stars (5299) 9.00 BAPS (1997) (96819) 10.30 Beavis and Buti-Heed Do America (1996) (24744) 12.00em Kingpin (1996) (778145) 1.55 Black Sheep (1996) (670110) 3.55 On the Edge of Innocence

SKY CINEMA 4.00pz Sheriock Heimes Faces Death (1943) 4337096 5.3e Holywood Heh of Fame. Fred Asiane (3387831) 8.0e Caught (1949) (1051725) 8.0e The Young Lions (1958) (88573599) 10.45 The Boston Strangier (1968) (38334744) 12.46em The Kremin Letter (1970) (8361874) 2.45 The Europeans (1979) (8170394) 4.20 Helizapoppin (1941) (484981)

9.00pm WCW Nitro (98773589) 11.35 WCW Thunder (99526367) 1.15em Skilling Target (1972) (94945416) 2.00 The Biggest Bundle of Them All (1966) (81982690) 5.00 Close

SKY SPORTS 1 8.30am Futures in Sport 7.00 Sports Centre
7.15 Wresting 8.15 You're On Sky Sports
8.00 Racing News 9.30 Aerobics 10.00
Live European PGA Goff Dubai Desert
Clossic 1.00pm Goff Australian Mesters
4.00 Big Fight Countdown 4.30 Terre
World Sport E.30 What a Weekend 6.00
Sports Centre 7.00 Big Fight Countdown
7.30 Goff Dubai Desert Classic 10.00
Sports Centre 11.00 Board Big Fight
Countdown 11.30 Hold the Back Page
12.00em Sports Centre 12.30 Moto-Plus
1.00 Live Goff Australian Missers

7.00mm Aerobacs Oz Stylo 7.30 Lwo

SKY SPORTS 2

International Crickol 11.00 Spanish Footber
1.00pm Football League Review 1.30 Whet
A Weekend 2.00 The Rugby Cub 3.00
International Cricks 6.00 Inside the Service
PGA Tour 6.30 Externe Sasing 7.00 Live
Friday Night Football 10.00 US Golf: Bulck
Invitational 12.00em Friday Night Football
1.30 Sports Centre 2.30 International
Crickot 5.30 Externe Sasing

SKY SPORTS 3 11.30mm Futures in Sport 12.00pm Trans World Sport 1.00 Fish TV Tight Lines 2.00 Bobby Charton's Football Scrapbook 3.30 toe Hodwy 8.30 World Sport Spoctal 8.30 Moto-Plus 7.00 International Croket 10.00 World Wrestling Federation Raw 12.00mm Closo

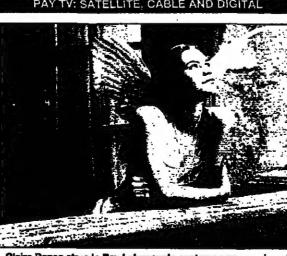
7.30am Snowboarding 8.00 Sto-Jumping 9.00 Women's Alone Steing 10.00 Live Bathlori 11.00 Women's Bashlori 12.00pm

EUROSPORT

Bathton 11.00 Women's Bathton 12.00pm Racing Line 12.30 Car on los 1.00 Snowboarding 1.30 Winner's Alpine Stong 2.30 Biathton 3.30 Line Tennis 5.30 Live Alpine Sking 6.33 Tennis 8.00 Alpine Sking 8.30 Live Alpine Sking 9.30 Raily 10.00 Borang 11.00 Playsie 11.30 Euterne Sports 12.30am Close ŲK GOLD 7.00am Crossroads 7.30 Neighbours 7.35 EastEnders 8.30 The Bill 9.00 The Bill 9.30 When the Boat Comes in 10.30 Rhoda 11.00 Dallas 11.55 Neighbours 12.25pm EastEnders 1.00 Julie Bravo 2.00 Dallas 2.55 The Bill 3.25 The Bill 3.55 EastEnders 4.30 Rhoda 8.00 All Creatures Great and Small 6.00 Dynasty 7.00 Sporth Children 7.40 Dad's Army 8.20 The Delectores 9.00 The Thin Blue Line 9.40 Knowing Me, Knowing You with Alan Partidga 10.20 Ruby Wes. Meets Sharon Stone 11.00 The Bill 11.30 The Bill 12.05am Doctor Who 1.00 Doctor Who 3.00 Shoronin with

GRANADA PLUS 6.00em Within Those Wells 7.00 On the Buses 7.30 Doctor in the House 8.00 Boachu's About 8.30 The Fosiers 9.00 Classic Coronation Street 9.30 Emmerdaes Farm 10.00 Upskin's Downstain 11.00 Hames Five-O 12.00pm Classic Coronation Street 12.30 Emmerdale Farm 1.00 Nearest and Deserts 1.30 Emmerdale Farm 1.00 Nearest

and Dearest 1,30 Pig in the Middle 2,00 Upstairs Downstairs 3,00 The Love Boat 4,00 The Saint 5,00 Hawaii Fore-O 6,00



Claire Danes stars in Baz Luhrmann's contemporary version of William Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet (Sky Premier, 10.05pm)

Emmerdale Farm 6.30 Classic Coronation Street 7.00 Mission: Impossible 9.00 The Love Boat 9.00 Classic Companion Street 9.30 The Compdiens 10.00 Jokes Wild 10.30 Hogen's Heroes 11.00 Granada Men

DISNEY CHANNEL

6.00am Bear in the Big Blue House 6.25 Classic Tooris 6.35 Gummi Bears 7.00 Classic Tooris 7.10 Aladdin 7.35 101 Dahmatans 8.00 Gool Troop 8.25 Classic Tooris 8.45 Naw Adventures of Winnie the Pooh 8.00 The Adventures of Spot 9.05 Animal Shaff 9.16 Pooled Dragons 9.30 Research Big Blue Library 8.65 The Animal Shell 9.16 Posted Dragons 9.30
Bear in the Big Blue House 9.55 The
Toothiquath Parmy 19.00 Sile Scc 19.10
Tots TV 18.30 The Big Garage 19.45 PB
and J Oter 11.00 Sealers Street 12.00pm
The Adventures of Spot 12.06 Animal Shell
12.15 Pocket Dragons 12.30 Bear in the
Big Blue House 12.55 The Toothiquath
Family 1.00 Big Size 1.15 Tots TV 1.30 The Parmy 1.00 one case 1.13 for the 2.00 New Adventures of Winnie the Pooh 2.00 Quack Pack 3.00 The Little Mermaid 3.30 Art Attack 4.00 101 Dalmatans 4.30 Hercules

The TV Show 5.00 Recess 5.15 Pepper Arm 5.30 Smart Guy 6.00 Teen Angel 6.30 Boy Meets World 7.00 Horsey, I Shursh the Kids The TV Show 7.50 Classic Toors 8.00 FILM: Mell to the Chief (1998) 9.35 Home nder Years 11.00 Touched by an Angel

FOX KIDS NETWORK

6.00am Power Rangers Turbo 6.30 Power Rangers Turbo 7.00 Mortal Kombal 7.25 Oggy and the Cockcroaches 7.30 Donkey Kong Country 8.00 Goosebumps 8.25 Sam and Max 8.35 Spidorman 9.00 X-Man 9.25 Feritastic Four 9.50 The Incredible Hulk 10.05 Cesper 10.30 Oggy and the Cockroaches 10.55 The Mouse and the Monster 11.05 Eckl Stravagenzs 11.30 Life with Loue 11.55 Home to Rank 12.05per Sam and Max 12.30 Doskey Kong Country

Book 4.50 Home to Rent 5.60 Goosebumps 5.25 Eerie Indiana: The Other Dimension 5.50 Oggy and the Cookroaches 5.55 Donkey Kong Country 6.25 Sam and Max 6.50 EaklStravaganza NICKELODEON

8.00am Murpel Bebies 6.30 Rocko's Modern Life 7.00 Caldog 7.30 Rugrats 8.00 The Wild Thomberrys 8.30 Arthur 9.00 Children's BBC 10.00 Writze's House 10.30 Baber 11.00 The Magre School Bus 11.30 PB Beer/Budgle the Little Helicopter/Ammal Amica/Family Ness 12.00pm Rugrats 12.30 Blue's Cues 1.00 Bananas in Pyjamas 1.30 Little Beer Stones 2.00 Clangers/King Roto/Wornbles/Bot 2.30 Children's BBC 3.00 Children's BBC

BRAVO 8.00pm The A-Team 9.00 LAP.D 9.30 Cops 10.00 Eureme Championship Wrasting 10.30 Erotic Confessions 11.00 FELM: Victor (1968) 1.00pm Sex Bytes wresting 10.30 Erotic Confessions 11.00 FILIAI: Vitican (1988) 1.00am Sex Bytes 1.35 Erotic Sense 2.06 Euterna Championship Westling 2.35 Cops 3.05 FILIA: National Lampoon's Movie Mediness (1961) 5.00 LAP D 5.30 Bushico 6.00 Close

PARAMOUNT COMEDY 7.00pm Jenny 7.30 Grace Under Fire 8.00 Elen 8.30 News ladio 9.00 Orop the Dead Dorkey 8.30 Whose Line is it Anyway? 10.00 Monty Python's Resulton Special 11.30 The Larry Sonders Show 12.00am Lete Night with David Letterman 1.00 Tax 1.20 The Chic 2.00 Dr Kgt; 2.30 Tibs and

Fibs 3.00 Nightstand 3.30 Abbot and Costello 4.00 Close THE SCI-FI CHANNEL SATELLITE Open-MIDNIGHT ONLY

7.90am Bloomberg Information Television 8.00 Sightings 9.00 Betslester Galachoa 10.00 Cusmium Leap 11.00 Dark Stradows 11.30 The Ray Stadbury Theatre 12.00pm The Twight Zone 12.30 The Twilight Zone 1.80 Tales of the Unexpected 1.30 Tales of

Theatre 6.30 New Alfred Hitchcock 7.00 Quentum Leep 8.00 Amazing Storles 6.30 Highlander: The Reven 9.30 The Hunger 10.00 PILM: Piranha II: The Spewning (1982) 12.00em PILM: Lunemen (1994) 2.00 The Guyver 2.30 100 Years of Horror 3.00 The Twilight Zone 3.30 Dark Shadows

HOME & LEISURE

6.00am Today's Gournes 6.30 Graham Kerr 7.00 Room Servee 7.30 The Paraled House 8.00 Wedding Story 8.30 A Beby Story 9.00 Simply Parating 9.25 The Home and Lesura House 9.30 The Great Garden Germe 10.00 Real Gardens 10.30 Cookebout with Grag and Max 11.00 Two's Country Get Stuck in 11.30 Rex Hunt Fishing Advantures 12.00ncm Core Hunt Pathing Adventures 12.00pm Our House Down Under 12.30 Antiques Trail 1.00 Cur House 1.30 Hometime 2.00 New Yarket Worteinop 2.30 Home Agein with Bob Via 3.00 This Old House with Steve and Norm

DISCOVERY 4.00pm Rex Hunt Speciels 4.30 Welker's World 5.00 Wheel Nuts 5.30 Treasure Hunters 6.00 Animal Doctor 6.30 Australia. The Big Picture 7:30 The Began Solution 8:00 Outback Adventures 8:30 Uncharted Airtica 9:00 Speedi Crashi Rescuel 10:00 War and Cwideston 11:00 Classes Story of the SAS 12:00mm The Bounty Hunter 1:00 Tessaure Hunters 1:30 Wheel Nuts 2:00

ANIMAL PLANET 12.00pm The Blue Beyond 1,00 Nature Watch with Julian Petities 1.30 Crocodile Hunter 2.00 Wild Rescues 2.30 Human/Nature 3.30 Henry's Practice 4.00 Jack Hanne's Zoo Lie 4.30 Annel Doctor 5.00 Pet Rescues 5.30 Deadly Australians 8.00 The New Adventures of Black Beauty 6.30 Lessie 7.00 Fedicativery of the World 8.00 Annel Doctor 8.30 Animal X 9.00 Cosen Wilds 9.30 Energency Vets 10.00 The Savage Season 10.30 Vet School 11.30 Emergency Vets 12.00em Close MATIONAL GEOGRAPADHUC

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC 7.00am Clan of the Crocodie 7.30 Firming the Batcone of Ethicpia 8.00 The Sherk-Fies. Sherks of the Atlantic 9.00 Young and Wild Alroa's Annual Bables 10.00 Workes of the Sea 11.00 Golden Lons of the Reinforest 11.30 The Mangroves 12.00am The Survivors HISTORY

4.00per The Civil Wer: A Very Bloody After 5.00 The Computer 6.00 Lost City of Pirates 7.00 Biography: Bit Circton

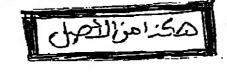
CARLTON FOOD 9.00em Food Network Deliy 9.30 Chel on a Shoestring 10.00 First Tasta 10.30 Alward Cooking 11.00 What's Cooking? 11.30 Cooking? 11.30 Cooking? 11.30 Cooking? 11.30 Cooking 12.00 Sendor Network Deliy 12.30 Newman Meets 1.00 Chel on a Shoestring 1.30 Goodon Ramsay's Passion for Flavour 2.00 Can't Stand the Heat 2.30 Food Network Deliy 3.00 Food Factory 3.30 Cookins (Richen College 4.00 New Chet's on the Block 4.30 Fossa Bramley's County Kilchen 5.00 Close

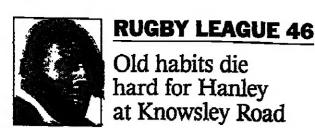
LIVING

ZEE TV

6.90cm Trny and Crew 6.20 Johnson and Friends 6.30 Philibert the Frog 6.40 Trny Tales 6.45 Greedysaurus and the Gang 6.50 Polic Dol. Storre 7.00 Practical Parenting 7.05 Professor Bubble 7.30 Calicu 7.35 Bug Alert 7.35 Practical Parenting 8.00 Berney and Friends 8.25 Babaloos 8.30 Casiou 8.35 Trny and Crew 8.50 Practical Proceedings 9.00 Centre 8.40 Centre 8.50 Practical Procedure 9.00 Centre 8.50 Practical Procedure 9.00 Centre 6.00 Centre 8.50 Practical Procedure 9.00 Centre 6.00 8.50 Practice Perenting 9.00 Cen't Cook, Won't Cook 9.30 The Rosearing Show-Highigms 10.00 The Jerry Springer Show-Highigms 10.00 The Jerry Show-Highing 10.00 The Jerry Selief: Fact or Fiction 2.10 LA Lew 3.10 LMing Room 4.00 Michael Cole 4.50 Rolands 5.40 Reach, Steedy, Cook 6.15 The Jerry Springer Show 7.05 Rescue 911 7.35 Anmal Rescue 8.00 Marry Powich 8.00 Film: No One Could Protect Her (1995) 11.00 The Sex Zone 12.00em Close

5.30 Meat Music Time 6.00 Sorry Men Lorry
5.30 Meat Music Show 7.00 Feith: Musim
7.30 News 2.00 Zee World 8.30 Safeato
9.00 Adhiver 10.00 Anhors 11.00 Zaike Na
Safer 11.30 Persmpers 12.00pm FILM:
Handl Movies Lover Boy 3.00 Zee Zone
5.30 km Mr Choice 4.00 Campus 4.30 Zee
Zone 5.30 Amenat 6.00 Artist of the
Fortright 6.30 Zee and Your Showcase
7.00 Chasme Sedoro 7.30 Entertainment
Express 8.00 News 8.30 Assintwed 9.30
FILM: Hindi Movie: Love Story 12.00am
News 12.30 Ru-Ba-Ru 1.00 X-Zone 2.00
PELM: Hindi Movie: Pyer Pyer





Ballesteros finds himself in trouble again



I will be

staying

put, says

leading

contender

KEVIN KEEGAN was ada-mant yesterday in his den that he was interested in becoming the England man-

ager, but, whether by accident

or design, in true football style he left the door open just a

"I don't want to say that I wouldn't want to be England manager, because that would

be disrespectful to the job," he said. "All I am saying is that

I'm not interested now. I said seven days ago that I didn't want to be considered and nothing has happened since to change my mind."

Keegan was the central fig-

ure at a press conference

called by Fulham to set the scene for the FA Cup fifth-

round tie against Manchester United on Sunday, but, try as

he might, the chief operations officer was unable to divert

questions away from himself and back to the club.

"I wish it hadn't come

heard the rumours today

this week," he said, "but I've

but if you're looking for the

next England manager, you'd

better look somewhere else, because it certainly isn't me." Mohamed Al Fayed, the

Fulham owner, made his feel-

ings clear on Keegan's future.

Nobody is indispensable, but

Keegan is an ordinary person

he said. "He has been looked after and I don't interfere with

what he does. He is a very committed person who is mar-ried to the club and I don't

think he will divorce himself

something good here. That

finish it.

and somebody I appreciate.

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 12 1999

FA targets reluctant Fulham manager as crucial Euro 2000 qualifying tie looms

England put Keegan in pole position

THE preliminaries over, the race to snare the next England manager began in earnest yesterday when it became apparent that, much though the Football Association might offer platonic admiration and re-spect for Howard Wilkinson, it is reserving its true ardour for the pursuit of Kevin

Keegan. Wilkinson, who presided over England's tame capitula-tion to France at Wembley on Wednesday night, will meet Noel White, the chairman of the FA's international committee, in London this morning, when he will be asked whether he wishes to be considered for the post on a permanent basis. It is now thought unlikely, though, that he will be automatically handed control for the crucial European championship qualifying tie against Poland on March 27, England's most important match since the goalless draw with Italy in Rome 18 months ago that secured their passage to the World Cup finals.

A continuing caretaker role is still a possibility, but only if the pursuit of Keegan falters. Several sources within the FA hinted yesterday that Wilkinson had never been the frontrunner, despite much speculation to the contrary. If he does throw his hat into the ring, he will find himself on a shortlist of three that includes Roy Hodgson, the former Blackburn Kovers mi which is headed by the man who used to be known simply as The Messiah when he led Newcastle United into the promised land of the FA Carling Premiership.

In the time-honoured fashion, Keegan said unequivocally yesterday that he was not interested in the job at this stage of his career. He said he was committed to Fulham, who lead the Nationwide League

second division and play Manchester United in the FA Cup fifth round on Sunday; that he had started a job at Craven Cottage and that he was determined to finish it.

Of course, Keegan is hardly in a position to say anything else. He has two years left on a contract that pays an annual salary of £750,000, he is about to lead Fulham into their biggest game for almost a quarter of a century and he has a chair-man, Mohamed Al Fayed, of huge power, influence and wealth. The five headhunters at the FA, though, will not be

David Sheepshanks, the former chairman of the Football League, David Dein, the Arsenal vice-chairman, David Richards, the Sheffield Wednesday chairman, David Davies, the FA's executive director, and White are all aware of the shortage of high-class candidates and the list of those who have ruled themselves out of contention. They are also thought to be reluctant to lose Wilkinson as their technical director, a job that they consider to be of equal importance to that of England manager. Davies, in particular, has



Hodgson: shortlist

1 Dowdy, unattractive (wom-

an) (8)
2 Dishcloth (3-5)
4 Without an ethical code (6)

6 Semitic person: type of horse

7 Flock, congregation: pen (4)

10 Wheel clamp: drove? Bet no

12 Certain to succeed (colloq.)

13 Of, worn on, the chest (8)

16 Flinch, bounce back (6)

18 Goad, incentive (4)

5 Tall office-block (10)

(anag.) (6.4)

brought a welcome sense of urgency to FA affairs since the departure of Keith Wiseman and Graham Kelly and the need to make a swift appointment will only fuel the governing body's ermination to get its man.

It appears that the FA has singled Keegan out because of his charisma, his ability to mo-bilise the nation behind him and to be an inspiration to players and supporters. Whether he would be a viable long-term solution is more open to question. That he worked wonders at Newcastle and is still revered in the North East is not in doubt. He did, however, become increas-ingly vulnerable to the pressures involved in management at the highest level and concerns exist about how he would cope with the unparalleled tensions that come with nanaging the national side. If he refuses to be swayed.

the FA may turn next to Hodgson, another gifted coach, who would have been in pole position to succeed Hoddle were it not for the bitter end to his reign at Blackburn and the suggestion that influential players at Ewood Park had turned against him. Hodgson is one of that rare breed who seem better suited to international football than day-to-day club management. He would be a fine, feisty, intelligent ambassador for the sport and he has the added advantage of

In the end, it may be something that basic and obvious that sways it. "I think we are very close to filling the position." Geoff Thompson, the acting FA chairman, said. "Noel White will be speaking to Howard Wilkinson on Friday at a technical control board meeting and they have arranged to meet to progress the matter as quickly as possi-ble. It is not for me to say whether Howard is in pole position. Howard is the technical director and I think that's a

very important role. Clearly, if Howard was not the man who was chosen, or indeed did not want the job, then he would have a great influence on the appointment. Howard and Noel are the two key figures in this situation and the meeting is extremely

"We hope to have somebody as quickly as possible, but you can't appoint someone overnight. Some are not available or may be already in positions. I doubt if it will be within the next week, but I hope a deci-



Keegan insisted yesterday that he did not want the job of England manager, but the FA will not be easily dissuaded

sion is taken before the Poland

Thompson, who will be in New Zealand for a month after this weekend, also confirmed the FA's reluctance to retrace its steps, so appearing to rule out Terry Venables and Bobby Robson. That will disappoint the majority of England players, many of whom still think wistfully about VenaMissing links

bles's time at the helm. "I think if you asked the players, then 99 per cent of them would say they would like to see it given to Venables," a member of the England team said yesterday. "They are not just saying

that for the good of their health. What he did worked." The FA, though, appears committed to a different path. It will be a lively ride if if get its man, an articulate, impassioned journey through the emotions. Ordinary managers may only need a modicum of

persuasion to accept the England job. Messiahs take a little

Tactical Henman shrugs off belated Bjorkman rally IT DOES seem to be a little un-

ACROSS 1 Providence, fortune (4) 3 Shakespeare's fat knight (8) 9 Long. tied-back hair (8) 11 Origin, history (of eg paint-

14 Put off: incline gradually (6) 15 Ripe (6) 17 Mocking, disrespectful (10) 20 Formal procedure: Fourth, Forsyth (8)

21 Pillar, buttress (4) 22 Move (population) elsewhere 23 Cure (4)

■ SOLUTION TO NO 1638 ACROSS: 4 Pen 8 Hoarder 9 Areas 10 Maths 11 Cortège 12 Stowaway 14 Prom 15 Foil 16 Stickler 20 Edition ! 21 Camel 23 Giant 24 Trojans 25 Eve DOWN: 1 Thames 2 Wart 3 Odessa 4 Procrastimate 5 Nacre 6 Cerebral 7 Esteem 13 Original 15 Fledge 17 Cocoon 18 Relish 19 Piste 22 Meat

No 1639

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fair that just when Tim Hen-man thinks he has conquered the demons that have haunted him at the Dubai Open for the past couple of years, another rises up to slap him in the face. With a record at this event that most would wish to forget, he turned in a spirited performance last night to reach the quarter-finals, beating Jonas Bjorkman 6-3. 7-6, only to discover that his next opponent is Jerome Golmard, who made a

chump of him at the Australian Open last year. Despite recording his first Dubai win on Tuesday, Henman was not sure of his chances against the former world No 4. Playing under the floodlights for the first time this year, he could not help but remember his previous efforts here - two night matches, two first-round losses and two miserable performances. When he dropped his service in the opening game, the memories

were becoming sharper. Bjorkman is one of those awfully nice but anonymous Swedes who appears to revel in his lack of notoriety. The service return, his biggest shot, depends on the power of his opponent and even his favourite party trick - Bjorkman is a wonderful mimic

FROM ALIX RAMSAY IN DUBAL

someone else. Last night, he made the mistake of pretending to be a deeply average tennis player.

Henman's job was made a great deal easier by Bjorkman's problems. The Swede's groundstrokes were stunningly mediocre, his returns toothless and he viewed the net as forbidden territory. It was not to last, though, as Bjorkman went for all-out attack in the latter part of the match, but,

by the time he was ready for

and, pushing Bjorkman into errors and nailing a couple of forehands, the Swede's challenge was repelled. Apart from the first service

battle, it was too late. He had

his one chance midway

through the second set, as

Hemman could not land a first

service and stood at 0-40 down, but Henman stood firm

game. I think it was pretty clear what I was trying to do." Henman said. "I wasn't expecting too much of myself in the

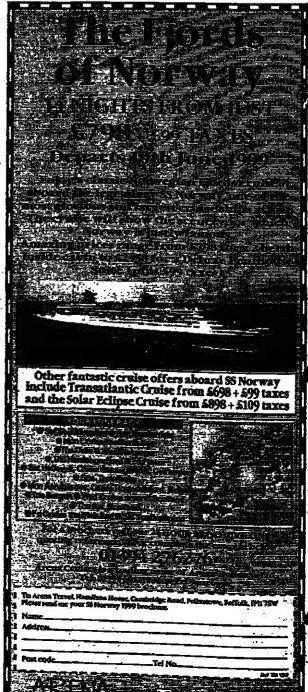


an is full of concentration as he plays a backhand during his victory in Dubai. Photograph: Alastair Grant any pressure on myself, either.
I felt had the right tactical approach, which was not to give him a target and even though staying back is against my nature. I still maintained my aggression."

Henman had a quick look at Golmard's form as the Frenchman beat Karol Kucera, the No 5 seed. 7-6, 6-1 and said that he "looked good". The Briton feels that the demons have been exorcised, in any case. Henman beat him in Tokyo three months after the Melbourne deleat and said last night: "I have put Australia behind me."

What Gustavo Kuerten has put behind him is somewhat alarming. Arranging his flow-ing locks into a tight bun stuck firmly to the back of his head, he looks like an elderly schoolmistress, albeit one with a walloping forehand. The shot was more than enough for Johan van Herck, a qualifier from Belgium, as the Brazilian booked his quarter-final place by winning 6-3, 6-2.

Andrew Ilie continued his spectacular run. Having beaten Alex Corretja, the No I seed, in the opening round, he dismantled Petr Korda 6-l, 6-3 last night and had the former Australian Open champion on the ropes from the start.



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Salate ...

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Fayed's put his faith in me, THE REAL PROPERTY. given me a budget of millions kondika: ... and a lot of freedom. I've got Such alaborators - -18 months left on my contract and, having started the joint, here, I intend to stay and - De la ite back 25 emdament ... page 180 min 4. Tve brought a number of for the let in the control of players to the club, the fan-自動物を base is growing and we all be-lieve that we're on the verge of

means more to me than the mi 6 8 pr :---England job at the moment. The people at the FA have Prince Marine 18 12 1 known me since I took the Unand and and der-21s for a couple of games and know that when I say something, I stick to it. I'm flattered, but it's not for me."